



WE ACKNOWLEDGE THAT WE GATHER ON THE DAKOTA HOMELAND

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COSTLY LOVE

Christmas is all about togetherness and no one understands that more than the Hallmark Channel. As everyone who is also tracking the Countdown to Christmas with the Hallmark Christmas app knows (please don't tell anyone), nothing complicated is ever supposed to happen. In a movie that could be called "Christmas, Christmas Back Again," travelers may accidentally stumble upon the town of Evergreen and be swept up in a holiday romance for the first time after the death of a spouse, but the handsome widow will fall head-over-heels with zero signs of residual trauma or lingering grief. ALL GOOD! Their children are very eager to find a new mom and drink hot chocolate while having a very extended conversation about the next intergenerational Christmas community dance.

There is something so compelling about these tidy story-lines. Predictable. Trustworthy.And, frankly, an escape for many of us living with crippling pain, grappling with our estranged families, and reckoning with lives that haven't turned out like we thought they would.

As much as I love the Christmas Nostalgia Machine (AND I DO!), we don't usually get a lot of permission to say the following undeniable truth: the fragility of the people we love makes Christmas layered with a lot of different feelings.

Love. Nostalgia. Grief. Worry. Joy. Exhaustion. Loneliness. Want of more cookie-making (or eating).

Especially for those in caring professions or serving as caregivers.

Right now is still an exhausting time to be a nurse or doctor, work in a hospital, serve as a teacher, social worker, or pastor, or take care of the people we love. The need is simply too great. And the cost of caring is sometimes too much to bear.

We live in webs of love and obligation and pain and joy.

(cont. in next column)

“BLESSED IS THE SEASON WHICH ENGAGES THE WHOLE WORLD IN A CONSPIRACY OF LOVE.”

~Hamilton Wright Mabie

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



READINGS

Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19; Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12

ADULT FORUM

Holy Trinity Adult Forums feature in-person presentations beginning at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday. 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.

DECEMBER 4 Lutheran Liturgy with Jan Mehlhoff

The order of our Lutheran worship has not changed in centuries. Pastor Jan Mehlhoff will lead us through the service explaining why the passing of the Peace (which is not the seventh inning stretch), Lord's Prayer, and other elements are where they are, which parts are optional, and why they may be used for a certain season and more.

DECEMBER 11 Share Your Holiday Customs

A time to share our Advent and Christmas customs and practices with one another.



ONE SERVICE ONLY DECEMBER 25 AND JANUARY 1

8:45 and 11:00 a.m. worship services will gather together for one service at 10:00 a.m. on Sundays, December 25 and January 1. There will be no Adult Forums on these Sundays.

(cont. from column to left)

So as we are scribbling out the last Christmas cards and trying to figure out who gets the Christmas cake (UGH! WHY IS IT SO GROSS AND MADE ANNUALLY!), let's send a little goodness and light to the people who are carrying love on their backs.

Will you pray this prayer with me?

God of compassion and love, we offer you all our suffering and pain. Give us strength to bear our weakness, healing even when there is no cure, peace in the midst of turmoil, and love to fill the spaces in our lives. Amen.

~from Service of Prayer for Healing, The Iona Abbey Worship Book

~Advent Devotional by [Kate Bowler](#)

Schedule for Advent 2022

Wednesdays, December 7, 14, and 21

Advent Suppers and Evening Prayer Services

God has chosen to make a home among us. In our joys and sorrows, in our longing for healing and justice, in our gathering for worship, God promises to embrace us in love.

This year, there are two opportunities to engage in worship on Wednesday evenings:

The first is designed for parents and their young children to engage together in an interactive Advent reflection that invites busy hands and imaginative minds. It will be held from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the gym.

As has been our tradition in years past, we will also gather at 7:00 p.m. for a Service of Evening Prayer in the Sanctuary. People of all ages are invited to worship (including young children, if this time and format works better for them).

Book Discussion on *Refugia Faith* 5:45-6:30 p.m.

Bring your supper (provided in the Community Room) to the Library and join the conversation on Debra Rienstra's book *Refugia Faith: Seeking Hidden Shelters, Ordinary Wonders, and the Healing of the Earth*.

AN EVENING WITH NIKOLE HANNAH-JONES: TRUTH, HISTORY, AND THE 1619 PROJECT TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 6:00 P.M.

CARLSON FAMILY STAGE, FREE; [TICKET REQUIRED](#)

Pulitzer Prize-winning writer Nikole Hannah-Jones will discuss her groundbreaking 1619 Project, which re-examined the legacy of slavery in the United States from the year the first enslaved Africans arrived in Virginia. She is the editor of the New York Times bestselling book *The 1619 Project: A New Origin Story*, published in 2021, a collection of essays, poems, and works of fiction that expands on the themes of the original project. A book signing will immediately follow the event.

OLIVE OIL FROM THE MOUNT OF OLIVES

Once again, Mount of Olives is shipping olive oil our way! This time we will be selling 250mL bottles for \$15 and 750 mL bottles for \$40. These bottles make excellent Christmas gifts! Purchases support the work of the Lutheran World Federation vocational training program and reduce student fees. Brought to you by the Palestine-Israel working group. Contact the [office](#) for further information or to purchase.



MAKERS AND BAKERS ADVENT BAZAAR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4, 9:45-11:00 AM

Shop on Sunday, December 4, between services, for hand-made crafts and treats. All proceeds help to support summer youth trips.

HOLIDAY SHARING WITH LONGFELLOW H.S. DEC. 8

Reminder that Holiday Sharing with Longfellow High School takes place Thursday, December 8, at 2:20 p.m. Contact [Zoe](#) if you can help with setting up, donating treats, or cleaning up.

LIFE TOGETHER: THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 6:30 PM SURVIVE AND EVEN THRIVE IN A MINNESOTA WINTER ~ OUR FINAL LIFE TOGETHER OFFERING FOR 2022 ~

Winter can be long in Minnesota. Advent and Christmas bring opportunities for gathering and celebration, but many of us experience some dread as we face the long nights and cold months of winter. Kari Kleven will host a candlelight gathering in her home to share companionship and encouraging ideas with each other. Please sign up in the Community Room by Sunday, December 11.

YEAR-END GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

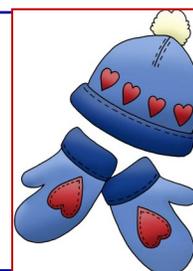
Every year Holy Trinity anticipates and relies on a year-end increase in offerings that helps support the work of the church. This holiday season, please consider making an additional contribution to Holy Trinity or to our special appeals, [Bright Stars of Bethlehem](#), the [Lift Garage](#), and/or [ELCA World Hunger](#). To donate online, click [here](#). Please remember: contributions must be received or postmarked by December 31, 2022, to be counted as a 2022 donation. Thank you!

WORSHIP ASSISTANT MINISTRY CALENDARS NOW OPEN

The Worship Assistant Ministry calendars for January and February are now *live*. Volunteers can log into the Rotunda app for the next few weeks and block off any worship dates/times that you cannot serve or that you want to serve. Please check the December calendar for spots that still need volunteers for Sundays and holidays in December. Thanks for serving!

WARM WINTER CLOTHING DRIVE!

Seeking donations of warm coats, boots, snow pants, scarves, sweaters, socks, gloves, and mittens. Drop off through December 11 at The Legacy Building, 4024 E. 46th Street. All sizes are needed, especially children's sizes.



CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT TRIP SCHEDULED

Montgomery, Alabama, has a checkered history as arguably the center of the slave trade when slavery reigned in the south, and as the birthplace of the Civil Rights Movement of the 20th century when a woman, weary from work, refused to give up her seat in the "whites only" section of a city bus.

The courage of Rosa Parks kicked off a Movement in the 1950s that led to major civil rights legislation in the 1960s. Both aspects of this history are there to be experienced as the focus of a Civil Rights Movement trip that will be available to members of Holy Trinity in the spring of 2023.

Prior to the onset of COVID, members of Holy Trinity had been scheduled to participate in a similar exploration of some of the sites of the Civil Rights Movement, an exploration that was one of the casualties of the pandemic. Now the opportunity is here again.

Under the leadership of Joanne Sorenson, a retired Lutheran pastor and founder of the non-profit organization "In Our Hands," the reality of that part of our history can be



experienced with a week-long trip that will be centered in Montgomery, Selma, and Birmingham, Alabama, with the likelihood that either Atlanta, Georgia, or Memphis, Tennessee, will be an additional stop. Joy and Randy Nelson participated in a shorter version of the trip in October and found it to be a sobering and deeply moving experience.

The dates will be Monday, April 17, through Sunday, April 23, 2023. Cost is likely to be \$2,000 per person with transportation, lodging, program fees, and some meals included. There will be room for up to 18 participants. *Commitments will be needed by March 1, 2023*, and more information will be shared as details are finalized.

Indication of interest should be registered with [Randy Nelson](#) (612 729-2952). Questions and requests for additional information can also be addressed to either Joy or Randy Nelson.

VOICES OF HOPE WINTER SING THURSDAY, DEC. 8

[Voices of Hope](#) invites you to attend a festive *Winter Sing* next Thursday, December 8, at Holy Trinity! Voices of Hope builds choral singing communities inside Minnesota prisons and in the wider Twin Cities community. Learn about their work, sing familiar holiday favorites, and help create a holiday video that will be shared inside the Shakopee and Stillwater correctional facilities.

Our evening will begin with a hearty meal. If you're able, please bring a dish to share. We will provide soup and bread. Everyone is welcome. When: Thursday, December 8, 6pm-9pm (meal at 6pm, singing at 7pm) Where: Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. Please RSVP [here](#).

MEALS ON WHEELS DELIVERY December 19-23

Holy Trinity will deliver meals for South Minneapolis Meals on Wheels the week of December 19-23. Holy Trinity delivers meals for 5 routes that week. Volunteers are needed to deliver meals with pick-up at Nokomis Square Cooperatives, 35th Ave. S. and 50th St. at 11:15 a.m. Delivery takes about 1-1½ hours. If you haven't delivered before, please contact [Mary Engen](#) (612-716-6338). Regular volunteers, please contact Mary with your available dates.

MORRIS PARK SINGERS MONDAY, DEC. 12, 7:00PM

The Morris Park Singers want to especially welcome the Holy Trinity community to their second seasonal concert, *To: Home*. The work will be performed at Holy Trinity on Monday, December 12, at 7:00 p.m. The work is a love letter to a word that brings about a myriad of emotions. However, it is more than a word. Home is a concept. It is a state of mind. It is a want, a need, and, to some, a necessity. It has almost infinite definitions (sixteen, according to Merriam Webster). *To: Home* is Morris Park Singers' musical attempt at exploring some of these interpretations.

This concert is a "pay what you can" performance, with a suggested donation of \$10/ticket but don't let a lack of funds keep you away! Enter the "price per ticket" when making your purchase (There is a \$1 minimum charge per ticket). For more information and to purchase tickets, click [here](#) or email singers@morrisparkplayers.org.

~ Concerning People ~

We pray today for all those in need of God's tender care, especially those who face illness, sorrow, or hard times, including the family of Jason Santa Ana, son of Ann White, upon his death; the family of Jeanne Salmon, upon her death; Peter Schroeder, hospitalized; Keith Olstad, hospitalized; Cliff Brown; Jack Hanson; Lois Eid's friends, Ras and Marian Erdahl; Dorothy Kelly; Mary Petersen's friend, Joe; Cori Gershon; Marcea Mariani; DeWayne Townsend III; Marlene Peterson; Mary Heltsley; and Mark Symchych.

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2022

8:45 AM		11:00 AM
Ingrid Rasmussen	Preacher	Ingrid Rasmussen
David Rojas Martinez	Presiding Ministers	David Rojas Martinez
Carol Masters	Assisting Minister	Tom Skold
Mary Engen, Ginny Jordan	Altar Guild	
Jean Swanson, Kevin Proescholdt	Coffee Servers	Roberta Shaw, Connie Adams
Kevin Proescholdt, Amy Froiland-Parada, Sue Roberts	Communion	Katy Benson
	Crucifer	Wayne Vetter
Julie Cahoy, Chuck Jordan	Counters	Deb Helm, John Sulzbach
Julie and Tom Cahoy, David Broberg, Chris Engen	Ushers	Kathy Hollander, Rod Johnson, Joy Nelson
	Closer	Rod Johnson

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

If you would like to sponsor a poinsettia for the altar area at Christmas, please sign up in the community room or contact the church [office](mailto:office@stjohns.org) (612-729-8358). Cost is on a sliding scale from \$0-\$30. Donate according to your ability. The Christmas Eve bulletins will list the names of sponsors and the loved ones they are remembering or honoring.

PARISH EVENTS DECEMBER 4-10, 2022

Sunday, December 4 (<i>Advent</i>)	8:45 AM 10:00 AM 11:00 AM 2:00 PM	Worship Service of Holy Communion Adult and Youth Education Worship Service of Holy Communion Swahili Service
Monday, December 5	6:30 PM	Adult Choir Rehearsal
Tuesday, December 6	11:00 AM	Worship Readings Discussion
Wednesday, December 7	5:30 PM 5:30 PM 5:30 PM 5:30 PM 5:45 PM 6:00 PM 7:40 PM	Advent Supper <i>Refugia Faith</i> Book Discussion Children's Choir Rehearsal CYF Gloria Ringers Rehearsal Cantate! Rehearsal Trinity Singers
Thursday, December 8	2:20 PM	Winter Sharing at Longfellow High School

LIVESTREAM LINKS FOR WORSHIP SERVICES

A [live-stream](#) of the 11:00 a.m. Sunday, November 27, service is available online at 9:55 a.m. You can access recordings of previous worship services through this [link](#).

