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Ingrid C. A. Rasmussen, Angela T. Khabeb (on leave), and Doug Mork, Pastors

Get To Know Kathy Ekwall

The youngest of 6 kids, Kathy Ekwall grew up in a small town in northeastern Wyoming with one sister (the oldest) and four brothers. She attended grade school in an (almost) one room schoolhouse in the middle of ranch land. She relocated to Minneapolis after high school to explore radio broadcasting. While taking a certificate program at Brown Institute, Kathy discovered Brown had just begun a graphic design program. She was always interested in art and creating but didn't know about careers where one could do artistic work.

After completing the broadcast program, Kathy returned to Wyoming to work as a radio announcer. A year later she moved back to Minneapolis and returned to Brown Institute to earn a degree in graphic design. While there, Kathy saw Holy Trinity's post in Brown's break room for a part time custodian. Fortunately for us, Kathy got the job. Her intent was to stay until she finished school, but as she began to help with more tasks, like transforming the gym into a magical learning space for Vacation Church School, designing and painting theater sets with the Holy Trinity Theater Circle, and other "as needed" projects, Kathy decided it was a pretty good gig, so she decided to stay. Twenty-seven years later, we are delighted that she is accepting a promotion to become the Communications & Congregational Coordinator position.

Kathy worked at a couple of smaller printing companies at the beginning of her career before settling in at the Star Tribune, where she spent 20 years as a graphic designer, eventually becoming a project manager in the advertising department. During those 20 years, Kathy held various other part time jobs in addition to the Holy Trinity job. She also ran her own freelance graphic design business, working with many different clients, designing logos, brochures, branding material, programs, etc. One of her points of focus was offering affordable design services to non-profit organizations.

After 20 years at the Star Tribune, Kathy took a job at Contata Solutions (a marketing and data science company) as their Marketing Operations Manager, where she has spent the past four years.

Kathy has always had a passion for giving back to the community. She delivered Meals on Wheels for almost 15 years, worked for many years with Minnesota Food Share

(cont. in opposite column)

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

READINGS



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 18 Advent Hymn sing!

So many hymns, so little time! We'll use the forum hour to get a few more Advent hymns in before the season is over. This is the final Adult Forum of the year! We meet in the Bartsch Room this week.

DECEMBER 25 No Adult Forum

JANUARY 1, 2023 No Adult Forum

(cont. from opposite column)

to organize a company-wide food drive at the Star Tribune, and worked with Habitat for Humanity, the Animal Humane Society, and many other organizations. years, worked for many years with Minnesota Food Share to organize a company-wide food drive at the Star Tribune, and worked with Habitat for Humanity, the Animal Humane Society, and many other organizations.

At the beginning of 2023, Kathy will start her next chapter as a full-time employee of Holy Trinity. She hopes to put the skills, passion, life lessons, and experiences she's learned over the years to use in a meaningful way at Holy Trinity, to support and contribute to the congregation and community.

OUTGOING: PAM WETTERLUND INCOMING: KATHY EKWALL

Pam Wetterlund will be retiring from her position as Communications and Congregational Coordinator at Holy Trinity in January. Pam has been with us since May 2019. She is leaving full time employment to free up more time for self-care as she prepares for knee replacement surgeries next year.

(Pam & Kathy cont. on next page)

PARISH INFORMATION

(Pam & Kathy cont. from previous page)

Pam will stay on part time for a couple of weeks in the new year while she trains in her replacement. Watch for a future announcement of a retirement party for Pam.

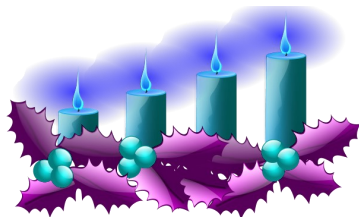
Prior to launching a search for Pam's replacement, the Personnel Committee asked long time Holy Trinity employee, Kathy Ekwall, if she'd be willing to consider the job. Much to our delight, she agreed!

Kathy has a degree in graphic design and lots of experience in project management. She knows the Holy Trinity community well and the building even better after 27 years of weekend custodial work. She's simply a wonderful human being. You'll begin to see Kathy around the office on January 9. While we're sad to say farewell to Pam, we know Kathy will serve Holy Trinity very capably in this new role.

ADVENT PROGRAM SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, 11:00 AM

We hope you can join us at the 11:00 a.m. service this Sunday, December 18, for the Advent Program featuring our Sunday School children and Confirmation youths.

During the liturgy, the youngest of our congregation will proclaim the good news of the God who promises to be born among us as Jesus. All who plan on attending are in for a treat of hearing prophecies from Scripture, the loud praises of animal noises, joyful marching around the sanctuary, and a variety of songs, as well as stories led by our students and teachers. This Advent Program will lead us into the week of the Christmas feast!



FINAL ADVENT SUPPER & EVENING PRAYER SERVICE WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21

This year, there are two opportunities to engage in worship on our final Advent Wednesday evening:

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*.

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

- Sunday, December 18: Sunday School Advent and Christmas Program at 11:00 a.m.
- Wednesday, December 21: Advent Supper and Evening Prayer Service—Peace in our Hearts.
- Reflection: Peder Kjeseth, on the complexity of deep grief in a season of joy. Musician: Bob Aldrich, guitar.
- Saturday, December 24: Christmas Eve Worship services at 4:00 and 9:00 p.m.
- Sunday, December 25, Christmas Morning: One service at 10:00 a.m.
- Sunday, January 1—ONE SERVICE at 10:00 a.m. on New Year's Day



SAVE THE DATE FOR HOLY TRINITY'S ANNUAL MEETING, SUNDAY, JANUARY 29, 11:15 A.M.

Holy Trinity's 119th Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 29, following the 10:00 a.m. worship service. A Zoom option will be available. There will be one service only that Sunday.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS — LAST CHANCE TO SIGN UP

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@holytrinity.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.

GIVING STATEMENTS BEING EMAILED

Giving statements will be emailed shortly. This statement will include all giving between January 1 and November 30, 2022. Please pay special attention to the amounts given, dates, and categories. If you have any questions, please get in touch with [Kaia Ellis](mailto:Kaia.Ellis@holytrinity.org). As always, thank you so much for your generous support!

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 year, we are currently behind approximately \$23,000 in regular member giving. The Financial Stewardship Committee met on Tuesday evening and they would like to invite each household to consider a year-end gift. If you're able to complete your pledge or share a little extra before December 31, church leadership would greatly appreciate it. To donate online, click [here](#). Please remember: contributions must be received or postmarked by December 31, 2022, to be counted as a 2022 donation.



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 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.

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.



FREE YARN IN THE COMMUNITY ROOM!

Please help yourself to yarn in the Community Room. This yarn makes excellent prayer shawls (but you can use it for any project you want). The yarn comes from a non-smoking home. It was donated to the knitters at Holy Trinity a few years ago, but needs to find a new home.

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](#) to purchase (612-729-8358).

STELLA TOWNSEND 77TH BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARY!

December 9 is an important day for me. I was baptized on December 9, 1945. In fact, my entire family was baptized! My younger sister, Eileen (aged 6 months), my older sister, Sheila (aged 8), me (aged 3), and my mom, Alice, and dad, Donald. Here's the story in a nutshell:

It was 1944, World War II was raging. My dad was in the army, stationed in the Philippines. My mother, my grandmother Edith, and my mother's aunt, Ruth, were taking care of us kids in Sacramento, CA.

My mother developed a severe infection in her heart—sub-acute bacterial endocarditis. No one survived this at the time. Fortunately, the only hospital in our area had a much talked about new antibiotic called penicillin which was not yet available to the general public, but it was offered to soldiers and their families. This miracle drug killed the bacteria that were raging in my mother's blood and heart, and she survived! Prior to her recovery, the pastor of a local Lutheran church, Kelmer Roe, visited and ministered to her nearly every day.

Mom and Dad were so grateful for the ministry of Pastor Roe that they decided that all five of us would be baptized at Bethel Lutheran Church in North Sacramento on December 9, 1945! It was the first baptism of an entire family that had ever done in that church. Both my parents assumed leadership roles, and we girls enjoyed attending Sunday School and Luther League. Eventually we were all confirmed, grew up, and went our separate ways.

If you enjoyed reading my baptismal story, I'd like to remember all of you on your baptismal anniversaries! If you'd care to share the dates with me, email me [here](#).

~ Stella Townsend, Holy Trinity member since 1981

PASTOR ANGELA ON LEAVE

Pastor Angela is on leave. To honor this time of rest, we ask you to refrain from emails, phone calls, and text messages (even the most kind and loving ones!). Your prayers are, of course, welcome and appreciated.

~ 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 **Lee Kampinen** as he prepares for open heart surgery on Dec. 21; Deacon David's mother, **Margarita**, upon the return of invasive cancer; **Peter Schroeder** and the entire Schroeder family; **Pastor Angela**; **Keith Olstad**; **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 18, 2022

8:45 AM		11:00 AM
Doug Mork	Preacher(s)	Children and Youth
David Rojas Martínez	Presiding Minister	David Rojas Martínez
Bob Hulteen	Crucifer	Jeff Olsen Biebighauser
Cathy Alpizar	Cantor	Cathy Alpizar
David Kohlstedt	Assisting Minister	Nicki Hines
Linda Berglin, Andrea Martin, Andrea Hansen	Communion	Melanie Townsend, Bryan Kuzel, David Krig
Steve Murray, David Broberg, Julie and Tom Cahoy	Ushers	Helen and Bob Norheim, Kathy Hollander, Rod Johnson
Anne Beschnett, Josh Becker	Altar Guild	Doris Gbala, Kathryn Howe
Sally Kohlstedt, Joel Wiberg	Coffee Servers	Stephanie and Scott Cole
Joyce Peterson, Annie Hines	Counters	Deb Helmelt, Pam Kildahl
	Video Operator	Jan Mehlhoff
	Closer	John Sulzbach



PARISH EVENTS DECEMBER 18-24, 2022

Sunday, December 18	8:45 AM	Worship Service of Holy Communion
	10:00 AM	Adult and Youth Education
	11:00 AM	Worship <u>Service</u> of Holy Communion <i>Children & Youth lead 11:00 am service</i>
	2:00 PM	Swahili Service
Monday, December 19	6:30 PM	Adult Choir Rehearsal
Tuesday, December 20	11:00 AM	Worship Readings Discussion
Wednesday, December 21	5:30 PM	Advent Supper
	5:30 PM	<i>Refugia Faith</i> Book Discussion
	5:30 PM	CYF Supervised Play in Gym
	7:00 PM	Gloria Ringers at Becketwood
Friday, December 23	11:00 AM	Funeral for Jeanne Salmon
	12:00 PM	Church office closing at noon
Saturday, December 24	4:00 PM	Christmas Eve Worship
	9:00 PM	Christmas Eve Worship

LIVESTREAM LINKS FOR WORSHIP SERVICES

A [live-stream](#) of the 11:00 a.m. Sunday service is available online at 10:55 a.m. You can access recordings of previous worship services [here](#).

