



WE ACKNOWLEDGE THAT WE GATHER ON THE DAKOTA HOMELAND

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

## The Christmas Story

To listen to Bishop Eaton read the Christmas Story, click [here](#).

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Luke 2:1-20

Merry Christmas, dear church.

*Elizabeth L. Eaton*



## CHRISTMAS

### READINGS FOR DECEMBER 25

Isaiah 62:6-12; Psalm 97

Titus 3:4-7; Luke 2:[1-7] 8-20

### 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 25** No Adult Forum

**JANUARY 1** No Adult Forum

**JANUARY 8** Personal Journey and Perspective on Water Rights in Palestine

Ashraf Ashkar was born and raised in Palestine in a village near Tulkarm. He did his undergraduate work in Palestine outside of the city of Jenin. He also worked there on water rights with OCHA, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, and with Oxfam UK. Ashraf will bring his story of growing up in Palestine, highlighting some of the economic and political struggles related to water rights.

### NEED HELP HOSTING ELCA BISHOPS JAN. 5

The ELCA bishops have asked to meet with Holy Trinity leaders on Thursday, January 5. They want to learn more about our congregation's response during the Uprising and our ministry since that time. If you would be willing to set tables, provide hospitality, serve a catered meal from Curry in a Hurry, and/or help with clean-up, please sign-up in the Community Room. We are expecting approximately 60 guests. We need 6-8 volunteers to be here from 2:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

"I am bringing you  
good news of great joy  
for all the people."



## HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

- Saturday, December 24, Christmas Eve: Worship services at [4:00 p.m.](#) (livestreamed) and 9:00 p.m.
- Sunday, December 25, Christmas Morning: One service at 10:00 a.m.
- Sunday, January 1, New Year's Day: One service at 10:00 a.m.



## A REFLECTION ON CHRISTMAS BY BRENÉ BROWN

*Several years ago, I spent Christmas week preparing to be part of an intervention for a good friend battling addiction. The following Christmas one of our parents was diagnosed with Stage IV lung cancer the day after Christmas. These experiences led me to write what has become "my annual holiday post." I share it every year because I need the reminder that we are not alone in this mess. Maybe this speaks to you this year:*

Every year as I think about my own life and reflect upon what my family and what many of the people around me are going through this Christmas, it's clear that struggle doesn't take off for the holidays.

The gremlins don't go on vacation. Checks bounce, chemotherapy appointments are scheduled, interventions are planned, relationships keep unravelling, being alone feels even lonelier, parents negotiate who will have the kids on Christmas morning, and the "never enoughs" are in full swing.

As I prepare to spend the next few days with my family and friends, I come back to this: I will find my holiday magic in the mess. I will practice love and gratitude with the special group them.

I'm grateful for our community, for your generosity, and for the respectful way we move forward together and embrace the mess!

~ Brené Brown

## SAVE THE DATE FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING, JAN. 29

Holy Trinity's 119<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 29, following the 10:00 a.m. worship service. The meeting will be in-person with a livestream option. There will be one worship service only that Sunday. We hope you'll make plans to join us!

## LAST OPPORTUNITY FOR YEAR-END GIVING

We are still behind in regular member giving that helps support the work of the church. The Financial Stewardship Committee invites each household to consider a year-end gift. If you're able to spare a little extra before December 31, church leadership would be very grateful. To donate online, click [here](#). Thank you!

## AN ADVENT THANK YOU FROM DEACON DAVID

This past Sunday's Advent Program during the second service was a joy to experience! I am so grateful for our amazing Sunday School teachers and helpers who shepherded the youngest among us and made the program a wonderful success. I also hold deep gratitude for our Cantor Phil and the ways in which he helps all of us proclaim the good news in song. The Confirmation students who read did an amazing job proclaiming the prophecies of old from the Hebrew Scriptures. These readings were brought to life by every single one of the presentations given by all three Trinity Village groups and our Godly Play folks. Through the orneriness of animals, wisdom gained in lessons, marching around with instruments, and the flashing of lights, we were given the opportunity to long for God's peaceable kingdom promised to us through Emmanuel. Many thanks to everyone for having made Sunday's program a big success. I'm deeply grateful for all of the time, energy, talents, and prayers (among so very many other things I could name) that this community has shared to teach the youngest among us the good news of Jesus who loves them. End of Advent blessings and may Jesus be born among you every single day!

~Deacon David

## VIEW THE WHITE CHURCH TRUTHS PANEL DISCUSSION

The Minnesota Council of Churches invites you to watch *White Church Truths*. The afternoon session featured a panel responding to the morning's keynote that included Rev. Dr. Kelly Sherman-Conroy, Felecia Boone, and Rev. Dr. DeWayne Davis; a Q&A session, a charge to the group from Dr. Tanden Brekke, and MCing from the Councils' co-directors of racial justice Rev. Pamela Ngunjiri and Rev. Jim Bear Jacobs. [Watch here](#).

## SHARON & ROB ENGLUND—56 YEARS OF MARRIAGE!

Long-time members Sharon and Rob Englund recently celebrated their 56th wedding anniversary! Does anyone recognize the maroon leaf pattern on the cups and plates being used at their wedding reception? Yup, fifty-six years later, Holy Trinity is still using those dishes! We've sure gotten our money's worth.

*Congratulations Sharon & Rob!*



## 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.

## SAVE THE DATE: SYNOD ASSEMBLY 2023

The Synod is planning an in-person Synod Assembly for Friday, April 28 (worship) at [St. Andrew Lutheran](#), Eden Prairie, and Saturday, April 29 (business) at [Lord of Life Lutheran](#), Ramsey.

2023 will feature keynote speaker Rev. Dr. Otis Moss III. With civil rights advocacy in his DNA, Rev. Dr. Otis Moss III built his ministry on community advancement and social justice activism. As Sr. Pastor of Trinity United Church of Christ in Chicago, Dr. Moss spent the last two decades practicing and preaching a Black theology that unapologetically calls attention to the problems of mass incarceration, environmental justice, and economic inequality.

## THERE'S STILL OLIVE OIL FROM THE MOUNT OF OLIVES!

There are 250mL bottles for \$15 and 750 mL bottles for \$40. These bottles make excellent 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.



## PAM WETTERLUND RETIRING

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 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.

## KATHY EKWALL PROMOTED

We're delighted to announce that long time, part-time employee, Kathy Ekwall, is being promoted to become our new full-time Communications and Congregational Coordinator on January 9, 2023. 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 wonderful. Will be sad to say farewell to Pam, but we know Kathy will serve Holy Trinity very capably in this new role.

## 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 it now needs to find a new home.



## 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, of course, are 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 **Stella Townsend**; **Lee Kampinen**; Deacon David's mother, **Margarita**; **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**; **Cori Gershon**; **Marcea Mariani**; **DeWayne Townsend III**; **Marlene Peterson**; **Mary Heltsley**; **Mark Symchych**; Mary Petersen's friends, **Marianne** and **Dolores**; Hans Lee and family, whose young granddaughter, **Lucy Jo**, died last week; Pam Wetterlund's niece, **Toni**; and Pastor Ingrid's father, **Kevin**, currently hospitalized.



## WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2022

	10:00 AM
<b>Preacher</b>	Ingrid Rasmussen: Lessons & Carols
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	Margaret Kelly
<b>Communion</b>	Sean Gosiewski, Libby & Keith Olstad
<b>Coffee</b>	Arlene Helvig, Amy Froiland-Parada
<b>Ushers</b>	Joy Nelson, Cory Gershon
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Libby & Keith Olstad
<b>Counters</b>	Pam Kildahl
<b>Video Operator</b>	Bob Hulteen
<b>Closer</b>	Bob Hulteen

Longfellow Alternative High School was full of joy when sixty-one student moms and their children were blessed this holiday season with the generous outpouring of love and support from Holy Trinity members who participated in the gift-giving ministry for our Longfellow A.H.S. neighbors. The moms appreciate it so much—they send huge love and thank you's!



## PARISH EVENTS DECEMBER 25-31, 2022

Sunday, December 25	10:00 AM 2:00 PM  6:30 PM	Christmas Worship <a href="#">Service</a> of Holy Communion Swahili Service  Adult Choir Rehearsal
Monday, December 26		Church office closed for holiday
Thursday, December 29		Final day to contribute financial gifts for 2022
Saturday, December 31		HaPpY nEw YeAr!

### 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](#).

