



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 MAGIC OF DÍA DE REYES

*Deacon David Rojas Martinez*

I have fond memories of the magic of *el Día de los Reyes Magos* (the Day of the Magi Kings) or simply *Día de Reyes* which is what we call the Feast of the Epiphany in the Spanish-speaking world. On the evening before the feast day, we would polish our shoes, set out hay and water for the camels, and write our wish lists to the Three Wise Men. The next day, we would wake up excited to find the gifts placed beside our shoes and the hay nibbled away as the Magi made their way to gift gold, frankincense, and myrrh to the Christ Child.



My family would then gather for a feast of hot chocolate and King's Cake or *Rosca de Reyes* as we celebrated the day. Baked within the bread were baby Jesus figurines, and anyone who found one was responsible for providing treats on Candlemas (also known as the Feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Candlemas is always 40 days after Christmas).

As I look back on these traditions now, I recognize how thoroughly we were colonized by Spain, how important the western Christian liturgical calendar has been in shaping Hispanic culture, and how magical the story of Jesus can be.



## EIGHTH DAY OF CHRISTMAS

JANUARY 1, 2023

### 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.*

**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.

*(Cont. from previous column)*

It's my hope that you are able to mark the end of the Christmas season in special ways. One event in our neighborhood will be hosted by [Saint Paul's](#) Lutheran Church, Iglesia luterana San Pablo, in the Phillips neighborhood (2742 15<sup>th</sup> Ave S, Minneapolis). Folks are invited to gather at the church building on the evening of Friday, January 6 at 6:30 p.m. There will be a short service with a dramatic reading of the story of the three kings, food, and a piñata. You may enjoy experiencing this Hispanic tradition in person and live the magic of *el Día de Reyes*!

### Thank You!

Holy Trinity couldn't function as it does without the hard work and support of lots of people, many of whom stay behind-the-scenes. We truly appreciate everyone who made 2022 special, including the children and youth, parents, musicians, cooks, servers, the many worship ministry volunteers, our working groups and committees, the church council, the teachers, the staff, and all of our members. Together we make up the vibrant body of our living church!

## 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!

## TUESDAY, JANUARY 10—HONOR THE EARTH WEBINAR

Join hosts Winona LaDuke, Patricia Torrez-Rey, Kari Dziejek, Julia Nerbonne, Jim Bear Jacobs, and others for a joint Honor the Earth/Minnesota Interfaith Power & Light webinar to release details of a legislative platform for massive climate action by the state. 7:00 - 8:30 pm CT. Find more information at this web [page](#).

## COMMITTEE AND WORKING GROUP FAIR JAN. 15

Please join us in the Community Room on Sunday, January 15 at 10:00 a.m. for a fair with Holy Trinity's committees and working groups. Learn about many of the ways this community of disciples seeks to follow Jesus and make a difference in our world! Teams will be especially focused on ways you can connect with their work.

## YOUTH RECITAL SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 10:00 A.M.

We celebrate the musical gifts of several of Holy Trinity's young people during our annual music recital in the Sanctuary at 10:00 a.m. The recital will take the place of the Adult Forum.



## SAVE THE DATE FOR WINTER FAMILY RETREAT

Join other families for a weekend of rest and renewal as well as family-friendly fun with church members of all ages at the YMCA Camp St. Croix in Hudson, Wisconsin, from Friday, February 17 to Sunday, February 19. Watch for more information coming in January.

## SAVE THE DATE: SYNOD ASSEMBLY APRIL 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 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.



## INFO FROM OUR CREATION CARE COMMITTEE

### *Happy Birthday to Holy Trinity's Solar System!*

Mid December brought back good memories of our solar system being switched on at that time last year. Thru Dec. 17, our system generated about 42% of our electricity. Our total electrical bill for 2022 is \$5,500 less than our last pre-COVID year, but we have used a lot less electricity due to the broken air conditioner, and a complete conversion to LED bulbs. We are continuing to monitor billing issues with Xcel Energy. We receive a credit for the amount of energy our system produces between 1:00 and 7:00 p.m. each day, Xcel's peak energy draw time. That credit was \$1,200 (included in the savings mentioned above) and this should continue for the life of the system. Xcel did increase their rates this year about 8%, but the good thing about using solar is that rate increases don't apply to the electricity we receive from our solar system; the price stays fixed at what we paid for it.

### *Windsorce Energy Continues to be a Good Deal!*

Our church and 117 members subscribed to Xcel's renewable *Windsorce* energy program in 2017. Xcel charges a premium for this program, but the utility's surcharge is part of a clean energy future and continues to drop over time. *Windsorce* subscribers: check out your electric bill for the past seven months; Xcel is charging less for wind energy than traditional fuel (gas, coal, nuclear). If you have not yet subscribed, call Xcel and enroll in the *Windsorce* program at no charge to you. Your payments will go towards building the next wind turbine. Holy Trinity still is 100% enrolled in *Windsorce* even though we now have solar and we've seen our annual net wind surcharge drop from \$1,000 to \$100 over the past four years.

*Much gratitude to the Caring for Creation team for all the efforts they put in to help our church and its members stay on top of many ways to conserve and be kinder to our planet. A special thank you to Kathy Hollander for plowing through countless spreadsheets and numbers to come up with the data shown above. (She actually claims to enjoy that type of thing!)*

## VIEW THE WHITE CHURCH TRUTHS PANEL DISCUSSION

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



## HTLC CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT SPRING TRIP

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.

## ALMOST OUT OF MOUNT OF OLIVES OLIVE OIL!

There are still bottles of Olive Oil left. Sales of this oil support the work of the Lutheran World Federation vocational training program and reduce student fees. Brought to you by the Palestine-Israel working group.

Dear Lord,

*Help us to change the way we live in the United States of America. Help us pivot away from the way we burn Earth's fossil fuels, consume too much, and take up space that we don't really need. Help us to see that your incarnation in Jesus Christ is not just for us, but for all of your beloved earthly creatures. In your Holy Spirit we pray, Amen.*

Amy Marga

Professor of Systematic Theology

Luther Seminary

*(reprinted from Luther Seminary God Pause, Dec. 25, 2022)*

## CAN YOU HELP HTLC HOST 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 to 8 volunteers to be here from 2:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

## KATHY EKWALL BEGINS IN OFFICE ON JANUARY 9

We're delighted 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 absolutely wonderful. We'll be sad to say farewell to Pam, but we know Kathy will capably serve Holy Trinity this new role.

## PAM WETTERLUND RETIRING

Pam Wetterlund will retire from her position as Communications and Congregational Coordinator at Holy Trinity on January 20. Pam has been with us since May 2019, replacing Vicki Mann when she retired. Pam is leaving full time employment to free up more time for self-care as she prepares for knee replacement surgeries next year. She'll stay in the position full-time until January 9 when she'll begin to train in Kathy, with a probable last day of January 20. Watch for a future announcement of a retirement party for Pam!

## PASTOR ANGELA ON LEAVE

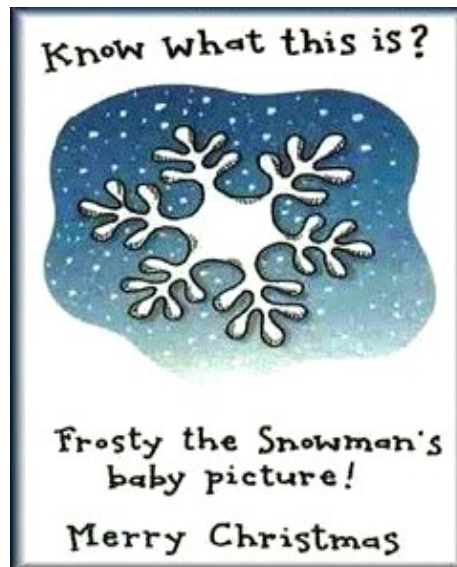
Pastor Angela is still on leave. To honor this time of rest, we ask you to refrain from emails, phone calls, and text messages (even the most kind and loving ones!). Your prayers, of course, are welcome and appreciated.

## ~ 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 Carol Johnson and family upon the death of her sister, **Joyce**; Deacon David's mother, **Margarita**; **Stella Townsend**; **Lee Kampinen**; **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; Pastor Ingrid's father, **Kevin**; and Pam Wetterlund's friend, Kelly, and her family upon the sudden death of Kelly's brother, **Tom**.

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS FOR SUNDAY, JANUARY 1, 2023

	10:00 AM
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	Liz Conway
<b>Communion</b>	Kathy Hollander, Bryan Kuzel, John Sulzbach
<b>Coffee</b>	Liz Kelley, Ann White
<b>Ushers</b>	Joy Nelson, Rod Johnson,
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Doris Gbala, Kathryn Howe
<b>Counters</b>	
<b>Video Operator</b>	Jeffrey Weiss
<b>Closer</b>	Rod Johnson



PARISH EVENTS JANUARY 1-7, 2023

Sunday, January 1	10:00 AM 2:00 PM	Worship <a href="#">Service</a> of Holy Communion Swahili Service
Monday, January 2		Church office closed for holiday
Tuesday, January 3	11:00 AM	Worship Readings <a href="#">Discussion</a>
Thursday, January 5	3:30 PM 6:45 PM	Bishops Meeting with Leaders at HTLC Big Meeting Night

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](#).



