



WE ACKNOWLEDGE THAT WE GATHER ON THE DAKOTA HOMELAND

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Ingrid C. A. Rasmussen, Doug Mork, and David Larson-Martínez, Pastors

AFRICAN PASTORS' FUND

Holy Trinity recently sent our annual gift via the African Pastors' Fund to support our partners in Bukoba, Tanzania. This year, the amount generated by the endowment fund was \$2,260. The post below was originally written in 2015 by Josiah and LuAnn Kibira, Joel and Nancy Wiberg, and Pastor Jay Carlson to share the origin story of the Fund. We thought it would be lovely to lift up this story again and share it with our community.

In 1998, Holy Trinity members Josiah and LuAnn Kibira spent a year in Josiah's hometown of Bukoba, Tanzania, as self-supporting volunteers for the ELCA. LuAnn worked as a nurse consultant at Ntoma Orphanage & Dispensary, while Josiah worked as an IT consultant at the diocese's central office. It was during this time that various retired pastors approached Josiah expressing the economic and financial hardships they were facing due to their low pensions. Josiah was approached partly because many of the pastors had known his father well when he was the bishop in the diocese. Josiah learned that some of the pastors had no income at all because when they retired they opted to take their pension as a lump sum. The amount was not large, however, and was quickly used up. For those who did not take lump sums, the monthly pensions averaged the equivalent of three dollars per month and were quite small compared to the high inflation rates that the whole country was facing. One pastor explained that the bus fare to get to the diocese central office to collect the pension was almost equal to the amount of the pension he was going to collect.

What was remarkable about these retired pastors is that even in retirement they were expected to work in their villages as well as within the diocese. They continued to lead worship, visit the sick, and officiate for weddings and funerals. While the diocese did provide medical care, the pastors did not receive any income.

Upon completing their service in Tanzania, Josiah and LuAnn were determined to find a way to help. Since Holy Trinity members had come to know Bukoba well through several congregational trips, the Kibiras turned to the congregation for help. The problem was shared with Joel Wiberg and Pastor Ronald Johnson, who had both lived and worked in Bukoba, and they suggested presenting the idea to the finance committee for further discussions. It was later accepted and an African Pastors' Fund was created to augment the income of retired pastors and widows of the

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REIGN OF CHRIST SUNDAY



READINGS

*Ezekiel 34:11-16,20-24; Psalm 95:1-7a;
Ephesians 1:15-23; Matthew 25:31-46*

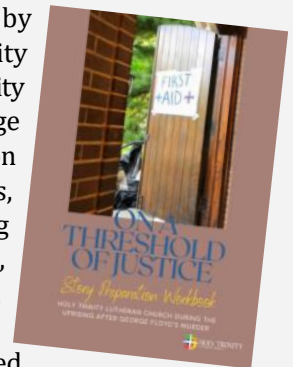
ADULT FORUM

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 858 5687 1594; Password 317879.

November 26 "Ethnographic Study" Amy Levad

In the days and weeks after George Floyd's murder, Levad volunteered at Holy Trinity. While she did a few things at the church, she spent most of her time and energy collecting donations from families, friends, and neighbors and dropping off items purchased from donations at the front of the church. Levad wants to express her gratitude to the Holy Trinity community for providing a way to contribute during those difficult days.

This project has been developed by Levad in conversation with Holy Trinity pastors and other Holy Trinity community members about the impacts of George Floyd's murder and the uprising on Holy Trinity, its members, leaders, volunteers, and the surrounding community. In those conversations, the need for a process of memory, discernment, and reflection within Holy Trinity and its connected communities has surfaced. Levad is using her time during sabbatical in spring 2024 to help facilitate this process.



December 3 "Doughnut Economics, Basic Concepts" David Howe and Sean Morrell

The presentation is based on videos and a book by economist Kate Raworth. First are 4 main ideas of world economics in the 20th century. These ideas tell what the economy is, who is it for, who we are, and what success looks like. These ideas do not equip us for the reality and challenges ahead.

These ideas are contrasted with Raworth's sustainable Doughnut Economics for the 21st century.

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Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania–Northwest Diocese. The fund was established in 2000.

At its inception, the goal was to raise about \$25,000 and create a fund to help out about 33 retired pastors and widows. Members of the congregation may continue to contribute to the fund. The annual growth (interest) is withdrawn and sent by Holy Trinity to the NW Diocese each November for safe and timely distribution to all eligible pastors and widows.

One pastor expressed something very personal to Josiah while he was volunteering in Tanzania. He said, “My financial situation is so bad that I do not have an offering for Christmas.” This was a heavy testimony from a man whose life was dedicated to teaching others the importance of giving. But now he had nothing to give. This fund ensures that most pastors at least have something to sustain themselves over the holidays so that they can also be generous.

On average, each pastor or widow receives between \$35 to \$50 each November. It may seem small, but it is a significant amount in Bukoba, and pastors look forward to receiving it, especially at the end of the year when expenses tend to increase.

The retired pastors and widows continue to express gratitude to the members of Holy Trinity. They continue to appreciate Holy Trinity’s partnership in helping them in their mission of spreading the Gospel even in their retirement. They continue to respond to God’s call to serve, in part because of Holy Trinity’s gift.

The HTLC Financial Stewardship Committee

Sally Kohlstedt, Scott Cole, George Henry, Katie Schroeder, Steve Murray, and Pastor Ingrid



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

If you would like to sponsor a poinsettia for the altar area at Christmas, please contact the church office (612-729-8358 or office@htlcmpls.org). 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.

NOVEMBER COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY

At the Council meeting on November 21, the group:

- Considered updates to the church constitution and changes to the bylaws, and voted to move these forward to a congregational vote at the annual meeting
- Decided that, based on the overwhelmingly positive feedback on the single service schedule in summer 2023, we will repeat that same schedule for summer 2024
- Approved our congregational commitments for 2024

DEADLINE REMINDERS

NOMINATE A SPECIAL APPEAL FOR 2024

Each year, Holy Trinity identifies and authorizes special financial appeals for 2-3 organizations. Special appeals are characterized by being open ended (i.e., we give to the organization(s) what we receive), they are normally approved for just one year, and they are supported by a special appeal letter which is sent to all the giving households in the congregation.

The Financial Stewardship Committee and Church Council work together to select the organizations. They evaluate proposed organizations based on the organization’s relationship to or history with Holy Trinity; the connection between the organization and the goals of Holy Trinity; and the donation’s impact. They seek to achieve a balance between local and global giving.

If you have a 501(c)3 organization that you’d like to nominate, please contact one of the church’s standing committees and ask for support of your nomination. By tradition, the World Hunger of the ELCA has been included as one of the causes designated for a special appeal and therefore does not need to be submitted by a standing committee. Nominations will be accepted until December 1, 2023. The congregation will be informed of the 2024 special appeals at our annual meeting in January.

Nominations, supported by a standing committee, may be emailed to Pastor Ingrid.

COMMITTEE/WORKING GROUP BUDGETS FOR 2024

It’s time to start drafting your 2024 budgets! Given the ways that COVID has shifted programming, committees may need to do some discerning of what can be done during this time and what financial support is needed to do it. (In other words, simply saying “the same as last year” doesn’t work this time around!) Please submit this information by December 1.

OLIVE OIL FROM THE MOUNT OF OLIVES

Bottles of fresh olive oil are available in two sizes: 250mL bottles for \$15 and 750 mL bottles for \$35. 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](mailto:office@htlcmpls.org) to purchase.



~ Concerning People ~

We pray today for all those in need of God’s tender care, especially those who face illness, sorrow, or hard times. We pray especially for **Anne Curtin, Joyce Hanson; Joel Wiberg’s sister-in-law Anne Wiberg; Arnie Johanson; Katie Schroeder’s mom, Diane; Joyce Peterson; Mary Paavola; Dorothy Kelly; and Cori Gershon.**

SAVE THE DATE

CALLING ALL ARTISTS—ADVENT ART SHOW

We are planning a member art show during the month of December. Get out your crayons, playdough, tongue depressors, lathes, looms, carving axes, paints, or whatever creative medium gives you joy! This is the official call for submissions. You can drop off your submissions to the church office during the week or leave them with. Let's surround ourselves with beauty created by those we worship with during Advent. For some inspiration, check out the youth art display in the Community Room by the kids table.



MAKERS AND BAKERS ADVENT BAZAAR DECEMBER 3, 8:30 A.M.-12:30 P.M.

Time to begin planning and honing your culinary and crafting abilities because the Holiday Bazaar is coming up at Holy Trinity! The youth will sell our creations in this fun community event Sunday, December 3, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. (except during services). In past bazaars, jelly, baked goods, canned goods, and other foods have sold readily. Or think crafts/creations that will make great holiday gifts. Sign up to contribute in the Community Room starting November 5. It's okay to just plan on shopping too! All proceeds will help fund the summer 2024 youth trips to the BWCA and the ELCA's National Youth Gathering in New Orleans. Bring donations for the sale by Friday, December 1, to the church building. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Pat Libra (612-729-5172), Liz Kelley (612-354-1709) or Amy Froiland-Parada (302-419-8124).

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5—KNITTING GROUP

Knitters (and crocheters!) are invited to bring their knitting or crochet projects to Holy Trinity on the first Tuesday of each month at 2:00 p.m. All are welcome to join in for needlework and conversation. For more information, contact Liz Blood (liz.bill.blood@gmail.com)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14—ENCORE! AT TURTLE BREAD

Encore! meets monthly at 8:00 a.m. at Turtle Bread (4205 E. 34th St.). No sign up necessary. Talk to Pastor David if you need a scholarship.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16—CHILDREN AND YOUTH ADVENT PRESENTATION REHEARSAL

Children and youth will gather in the sanctuary from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. to practice their lines, sing their songs, and try on their costumes for their annual Advent gift to the congregation on Sunday, December 17.

REMINDER

THURSDAY AND FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 23 AND 24

The church office will be closed for Thanksgiving.



ADVENT

WEDNESDAYS IN ADVENT (DECEMBER 6, 13, and 20)

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. The theme for our gatherings is "Thresholds." As we anticipate the birth of Jesus, we focus on divine thresholds—points at which something starts to happen or change in our individual and collective lives.

All are invited to partake in the Advent soup suppers on Wednesdays from 6:00 to 6:50 pm. In the Community Room.

While the activities are taking place throughout the building, a staff person will be in the gym. Everyone is invited to come and leave as needed. You can shoot a few hoops, have your child enjoy time on a tricycle, or simply hang out.

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 Bartsch Room. People of all ages are invited to worship.

ADVENT BOOK DISCUSSION POSTPONED

The books are backordered from the publisher, so the discussion of Cole Arthur Riley's book *This Here Flesh* has been postponed until after Christmas. Watch the newsletter and bulletin for more information.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR WEDNESDAYS IN ADVENT

We are looking for volunteers to help with Advent Evening Soup Suppers (December 6, 13, and 20). Each Wednesday, 4 households would prepare and serve enough for 30 people. We are in particular need of volunteers for set-up and clean-up all three Wednesdays. Sign up in the Community Room.

BORDER IMMERSION TRIP INVITATION FROM EDINA COMMUNITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Edina Community Lutheran Church (ECLC) is planning a border immersion trip to El Paso, TX February 3-9, 2024. They have a few spots left and are inviting members of Holy Trinity to join. The cost is about \$600, plus hotel (\$109+taxes and fees per night), and airfare. Some in the group stayed an extra day to visit White Sands National Park which is about 1½ hours from El Paso. Some will be doing that again this year so they will depart El Paso on Saturday, February 10. Last year's participants found it to be a transformational experience. Contact Camilla Madson for more info (madsoncr@gmail.com)

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS FOR SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2023

8:45 AM		11:00 AM
Doug Mork	Preacher	Doug Mork
David Larson-Martínez	Presiding Minister	David Larson-Martínez
Tom Cahoy	Crucifer	Noah Hines
Drew Lindorfer	Cantor	Drew Lindorfer
David Berg	Altar Guild	Doris Gbala
Karen Batdorf	Assisting Minister	
Sally and David Kohlstedt	Communion	Kris Christians, Stephanie and Scott Cole
David and Sally Kohlstedt, Steve Murray	Ushers	Kathy Hollander, Rod Johnson, Chris Amundson, Jeff Olsen Biebighauser
Erin Henry, David Broberg	Coffee Servers	Joy Nelson, Ann White
Julie Cahoy, Pam Blomgren	Counters	Debora Helm
	Closer	Bob Hulteen
	Video Operator	Bob Hulteen

PARISH EVENTS NOVEMBER 26-DECEMBER 2, 2023

Sunday, November 26	8:45 AM 10:00 AM 10:00 AM 11:00 AM 2:00 PM	Worship Service of Holy Communion Adult Forum Children and Youth Education Worship Service of Holy Communion Swahili Service
Monday, November 27	6:30-8:00 PM	Adult Choir Rehearsal
Tuesday, November 28	11:00 AM	Worship Readings Discussion
Wednesday, November 29	5:00-6:00 PM 5:45-6:45 PM 6:00-8:00 PM 6:00 PM	Choir Family Meal Children's Choir Rehearsal Supervised Play Time Gloria Ringers Rehearsal
Thursday, November 30	Evening (time tbd)	<i>Enchantment</i> Book Discussion

LOOKING AHEAD

Sunday, December 24—NO MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, December 24, there will be no morning services or activities, due to the evening Christmas Eve services at 4:00 and 9:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 31—ONE WORSHIP SERVICE ONLY

8:45 and 11:00 a.m. worship services will gather together for one service at 10:00 a.m.

Sunday, January 28—Annual Meeting —ONE WORSHIP SERVICE ONLY

8:45 and 11:00 a.m. worship services will gather together for one service at 10:00 a.m. Following the service, all are invited to the gym for a free meal and the annual congregational meeting, as we celebrate the 120th year of God's ministry through Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. We will review committee goals, elect new council members, and approve the 2024 budget. The annual meeting is also an opportunity for us to check on our progress made toward congregational goals.

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](#).

