



WE ACKNOWLEDGE THAT WE GATHER ON THE DAKOTA HOMELAND

2730 E. 31st Street Minneapolis, MN 55406 • 612-729-8358 • office@htlcmpls.org • www.htlcmpls.org
Ingrid C. A. Rasmussen, Doug Mork, and David Larson-Martínez, Pastors

ADULT CHOIR SUNDAY

“How shall we consider others gathered round his manger here? Will we favor robes and riches and to those with gold draw near? Do we see the earthy shepherds, wondering how they think it right that they stand before the Savior, least of these, to share his light? How shall we depart that evening? Will our hearts be changed and free?” - Kris Kuhn

This Sunday’s worship services will be led by members of the Holy Trinity Adult Choirs and will illuminate texts of Advent and more angles of how we encounter and see our way through life’s thresholds. The above text by Kris Kuhn in the anthem, *How Shall We Approach This Wonder?* raises the question of how those around Jesus would have reacted leading up to and during his birth. They are simple questions. Some have what we might perceive as simple answers but are sometimes overshadowed by the overall celebration and joy that is typically shared during the season. How were the humble shepherds to react to the world’s Savior being born in front of their very eyes? Will tomorrow be a different day because of this birth? How should one react in any situation of such grandeur and possibility? The anthem’s text continues to raise questions that provide a different angle of the events surrounding Jesus’ birth and end with a reassurance that whoever comes to witness this birth to come as you are and return fullhearted.

As we continue to ask the questions of how those around Jesus’ birth may have approached the scene, we have been embraced with the promise that our Savior “is with us and ever sets us free.” Advent texts leave us with a feeling of hope and a positive outlook. This is in part because we know how the Christmas story goes, we know how it ends. I acknowledge that a positive future is a challenging reality for many who live amid wars, both small and large, at home and abroad, climate, social justice, the list goes on. We once again come into the season of Advent—a season of hope to reveal what was revealed to the world two-thousand years ago. Jesus is the hope of the world, and we wouldn’t retell the story if we couldn’t find the same hope in our own world today.

Jan Richardson states that “a threshold, chosen or otherwise, is a place of wild possibility.” I can only imagine what possibilities were going through the minds of those surrounding Jesus leading up to his birth. A threshold of “wild possibility” could leave us hanging. For me, it sounds like an anxiety-causing place to be in. However, the perennial reminder of the saving grace of Jesus is left to reassure that at one point

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SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

READINGS

*Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13;
2 Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8*



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.

December 10 “Global Relationships and Interconnections”

Connie Lien Adams and Carol Berg

Connie Lien Adams and Carol Berg will share from their international experience to discuss the mutual benefits of collaborating across the globe. Concrete examples of partnering in the health sector through Global Health Ministries and overseas partners will be highlighted.

December 17 “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. We meet in the Bartsch Room this week.

MAKE YOUR YEAR-END GIFTS

We invite you to plan for and make your final contributions for the current fiscal year at this time. Please allow for additional processing time with consideration to the holiday season if you are anticipating requesting funds from retirement accounts. This will give us all adequate time to deposit and post gifts before the close of the tax year and also get year-end statements out to you in a timely manner. Thank you so much for all you share with Holy Trinity!

~ 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 Caren Hiatt’s sister-in-law, **Shannon**; Annie Hines’s son, **Nick, Peter Schroeder**; friends and family of **Anne Curtin** upon her death last week; **Joyce Hanson**; Joel Wiberg’s sister-in-law **Anne Wiberg**; **Arnie Johanson**; Katie Schroeder’s mom, **Diane**; **Mary Paavola**; **Dorothy Kelly**; and **Cori Gershon**.

PARISH INFORMATION

(Continued from previous page)

joy will be shared by all of the world. Every anthem and hymn are a testament to this statement and always share a hopeful message.

I invite you to live through the music and texts this coming weekend and find both the thresholds that were crossed many years ago while also finding parallels to today. In what ways can you find hope and reassurance in a world sometimes overshadowed with doubt and divisions? I invite you to reflect, meditate, question, and sing with us as we approach Jesus' birth.

Lastly, I must thank the dedicated members of the Adult Choir and Trinity Singers for spending the last month preparing music for this special Sunday. They are the ones that make the text come alive from the page and add so much beauty in their singing. A big thank you also to our accompanist, Erik as well as guest musicians, Pat Farris on flute and Kaia Sand on oboe.

"Come as paupers, kings, or shepherds; come however you can come. Bring your empty lives with longing, then return fullhearted home." - Kris Kuhn

~Phil Radtke, Cantor

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.

HAPPENING THIS WEEK

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13—ADVENT SUPPER AND EVENING PRAYER SERVICE

All are invited to partake in the free Advent soup supper on Wednesday from 6:00 to 6:45 p.m. in the Community Room. 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. You may also join via [live-stream](#).

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.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14—HOLIDAY SHARING WITH LONGFELLOW ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL

The annual holiday sharing event with the Longfellow moms and their children will be at 3:15, December 14 in the gym.

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.

SAVE THE DATE

CHILDREN AND YOUTH PROGRAM SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 11:00 A.M.

Children and youth will help lead the 11:00 a.m. worship service on Sunday, December 17, the third Sunday of Advent. Participants will gather in the sanctuary at 9:55 a.m. for a final rehearsal.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 13—MICRO-AGGRESSIONS AND MICRO-INCLUSIONS WORKSHOP

The morning of January 13th there will be one more workshop on micro-aggressions and micro-inclusions at Holy Trinity led by Joe Davis and David Scherer. This event is both for those who attended the workshops in the fall of 2022 and 2023 and for those who are new participants. There will be a brief review of the earlier workshops and then new material that explores the white supremacy that underlies racial microaggressions. As in the past, Joe and David make this learning event both deeply meaningful and fun. A sign-up sheet is in the Community Room or you can email Libby Olstad at libbyolstad@icloud.com.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 28—ANNUAL MEETING

Following the 11:00 a.m. 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.

THANK YOU FROM THE HOLY TRINITY YOUTH

We are so grateful for everyone's participation in the Holiday Bazaar on Sunday December 3! There were delicious sweets, home-knit hats, home-canned jams, Holy Trinity logo earrings, and so much more! Due to your generosity, the youth were able to raise a bit more than \$1,700. That's amazing! These funds will help alleviate costs for summer trips that Holy Trinity youth will take in 2024 to the BWCA and the ELCA National Youth Gathering. Your giving of items to sell and your shopping has made a huge difference, and we are so grateful! I am also extremely grateful for all of the adults and youth who helped in the planning, the making, the set up, the selling, and everything else to make this event a success. If you would still like to donate to Youth Summer 2024 trips please visit htlcmpls.org/donate. Happy holidays to all!



WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2023

8:45 AM		11:00 AM
Adult Choir and Ensembles	Preacher	Adult Choir and Ensembles
Ingrid Rasmussen	Presiding Minister	Ingrid Rasmussen
Tom Cahoy	Crucifer	Jeff Olsen Biebighauser
Ann Schrooten	Cantor	Ann Schrooten
Mary Engen	Altar Guild	Vicki Bergman, Doris Gbala
Karen Batdorf, Marge Higgins, Mary Opila	Assisting Minister	Tom Skold, Sharon Englund, Rob Englund
Carol and David Berg, David Broberg	Communion	Liz Conway, Matt Floding, Sean Gosiewski
Sally and David Kohlstedt, Chris Engen	Ushers	Helen and Bob Norheim, Kathy Hollander, Rod Johnson
Sally and David Kohlstedt	Coffee Servers	Nicki Hines, Trinity Village 3 Helpers
	Counters	
	Closer	Bob Hulteen
	Video Operator	Bob Hulteen

CHANGES TO UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES

- Sunday, December 24, there will be no morning services or education, due to the evening Christmas Eve services at 4:00 and 9:00 p.m.
- Sunday, December 31, we will have one service only at 10:00 a.m.
- Sunday, January 28, we will have one service only at 10:00 a.m., followed by lunch and the Annual Meeting at 11:00 a.m.

PARISH EVENTS DECEMBER 10-16, 2023

Sunday, December 10	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, December 11	6:30-8:00 PM	Adult Choir Rehearsal
Tuesday, December 12	11:00 AM 6:45 PM	Worship Readings Discussion Big Meeting Night
Wednesday, December 13	5:30 PM 5:45 PM 5:45 PM 6:00 PM 7:00 PM	Supervised Play Time in the Gym Children's Choir Rehearsal Gloria Ringers Rehearsal Advent Soup Supper Advent Evening Prayer Service
Thursday, December 14	8:00 PM	Encore! at Turtle Bread
Saturday, December 16	1:30-3:30 PM	Children and Youth Rehearsal

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](#).

