



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

In the Gospel according to Luke we hear the angels say to the shepherds,



Glory to God IN THE
HIGHEST HEAVEN,
and peace to God's people
ON EARTH.

At this time of the year, perhaps our longing for peace is even more acute. We know the world isn't right. Nevertheless, we wait for and trust in Jesus, the Prince of Peace. The angels proclaimed, "Peace on Earth. Good tidings we bring." We pray for peace in our world and in our communities. Every week we take time during worship to greet one another with the message of peace. We reach out, grasping hands across pews, across the aisle. Some may walk to other areas of the sanctuary to give a message of peace to a neighbor or a visitor. "The peace of Christ be with you." "And also with you." We share the peace, the love of God, and as we do, we know that God has reached from heaven to earth and, in the Prince of Peace, is sharing God's peace with us. In this season and all year round, may the peace of Christ be with you.

Merry Christmas, dear church.
Elyseon L. Eaton



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America



CHRISTMAS EVE READINGS

Isaiah 9:2-7; Luke 2:1-7;
Luke 2:8-14; Luke 2:15-20

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 858 5687 1594; Password 317879.

December 24 No Adult Forum

December 31 No Adult Forum

THIS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24—POP-UP CHOIR

CHRISTMAS EVE POP-UP CHOIR

REHEARSAL @ 3PM
CHOIR ROOM
• NO PREPARATION NEEDED
4PM WORSHIP



HOLY TRINITY
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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 **Gerry Berglin**; Mary Heltsley's nephew **Michael Frey**; Caren Hiatt's sister-in-law, **Shannon**; Annie Hines's son **Nick**; **Joyce Hanson**; **Arnie Johanson**; Katie Schroeder's mom, **Diane**; **Dorothy Kelly**; **Cori Gershon**.

OFFICE CLOSURES

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

- Friday, December 22, closes at Noon
- Monday, December 25, closed
- December 26-29, closes at 2:00 p.m. each day to allow us time to work on some year-end projects around the building.
- Monday, January 1, closed

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP WITH WEDNESDAY CHOIR FAMILY MEALS

Volunteers should plan to make enough food for at least 12 children and 8 adults. Usually 4-8 people request vegetarian options. You may use the church kitchen if you prefer. Please be ready to serve by 5:00 p.m. Supper starts at 5:00 p.m. and wraps up at 6:30 p.m. We are happy to reimburse you for everything! Simply submit your receipts to Pastor David. A sign-up sheet with more information is in the Community Room.

GRATITUDE FOR MIGIZI SPECIAL APPEAL RESPONSE

The Indigenous Justice Task Force (previously known as the Doctrine of Discovery TF) would like to express our deep appreciation for the generous contributions of Holy Trinity members and others to the 2023 Special Appeal for Holy Trinity's partner, MIGIZI and it's summer programs. The contributions totaled \$13,310 which helped MIGIZI send 22 Native youth on a canoe trip through a partnership with Wilderness Canoe Base. Kelly Drummer, MIGIZI President, said the trips have been "an amazing experience for our youth and the staff. If you would like to be involved in the Indigenous Justice Task Force, contact Mike Miller, Chair at mmiller421@aol.com.



NEW SOFTWARE IS COMING FOR VOUNTEERS

We know there have been pain points with the software we use for ministry volunteers. After much research and recommendations from other metro area congregations, we will be switching to Realm Connect. This will be more user friendly and allow us to integrate information and tasks that we are currently doing through more than one program. More information will be coming in the next few weeks. We appreciate your patience and understanding during this process. Please contact Kathy Ekwall (kekwall@htlcpmls.org) with any questions.

MANUAL SCHEDULING PROCESS FOR WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS IN JANUARY

Because of the software changes for volunteer scheduling, we will be doing a manual scheduling process in January. Next week Kathy will send emails to groups for each role asking you to verify your availability.

SAVE THE DATE

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

On Saturday, January 13, from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., 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 racial microaggressions. As in the past, Joe and David make this learning event both deeply meaningful and fun. Sign-up in the Community Room or email your interest to Libby Olstad (libbyolstad@icloud.com).

SUNDAY, JANUARY 28—ANNUAL MEETING

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.

HOLIDAY SHARING WITH LONGFELLOW ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL

Thank you to all who helped with the annual holiday sharing event with the Longfellow moms and their children. It was a fun and heartwarming event.



PARISH INFORMATION

CEASEFIRE CAROLING

Grateful for the extra red fleece scarf in the freezing temperatures, I sang amongst 30 other carolers as the concert let out of Orchestra Hall:

Carol of the Bells

Free Palestine (x 4)
Now is the time (x 4)
We're here to take a stand
For the Holy Land
We have one demand:
Peace in the Land!
Everyone deserves a peaceful nation.
We can end illegal occupation.

Link to performance here: <https://www.instagram.com/reel/C0sfajksDRz/>

While some concert goers avoided us, more than I anticipated smiled, some were moved to tears, some stopped to watch a full carol or two, others mouthed "thank you" in appreciation.

I, like many of you, feel my heart wrench daily with news from Palestine. Beyond calling my representatives to pressure a permanent ceasefire and no more funds to Israel, I often find myself scrolling and feeling sick or not scrolling at all and being avoidant. A Jewish coworker of mine has been reminding us that Palestinians are asking us to use our voices, to speak up and out. Singing in the Ceasefire Choir has been a hopeful, low-risk, grounding way for me to use my voice and disrupt "business as usual" in this Christmas season.

Teresa Butel invited Donna Goodlaxson and me to come to a rehearsal for the new Ceasefire Choir weeks ago, a group open to all but focusing on participation of white Christians, secular or practicing. The group is the answer to a call of, "We see our Muslim and Jewish community members showing up, but where are the Christians in this moment?"

The rehearsals and actions go beyond adapting classic Christmas carol lyrics to call for permanent Ceasefire. Leaders ground us in shared values and hold brief Teach-Ins about how we as Christians, and specifically white Christians, have benefitted and continue to benefit from Christian hegemony and settler colonialism, about Christian Zionism and its relationship to Jewish Zionism, and about Christian funding of Israel. It is clarifying to have terms defined. It is illuminating to get bits of history and how Christians connect to and benefit from this conflict. (Read about these values and find information here (https://docs.google.com/document/d/1i-IP_rrgeJAwExIIHAt9blv8nptndOCUY6WcOUeK6Hw/edit))

Donna has been a leader in the art build initiative of the group, preparing the visual aspect of the choir actions including making the signs and scarves. Teresa has been key in inviting many people to join and flyering during the choir actions. Their leadership and initiative, along with those organizing this Ceasefire Choir group, remind me that we can use our skills,

passions, and connections to make movements toward justice.

The Minneapolis choir has had five actions so far and there another choir action being planned for Friday, December 22 around 5:30 p.m., click here to sign up: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd4wfkbey5yumWvo1ZXZl6m-OzJ_dsh3NpIlGwCXQq_2N8tdg/viewform.

Joy to the World

Joy to the world! We have a choice
To end this genocide!
It's our tax dollars funding it
Our politicians blunder it
We won't stand idly by,
We won't stand idly by,
While thousands and thousands die
We say, cease fire!

Link to the performance here: <https://www.instagram.com/reel/C0caP97O4cL/>

This Ceasefire Caroling movement has spread across the country and internationally. Even if you can't join a caroling action, try out some adapted lyrics to the classic carols (link:<https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/1FjMr5bc6cxDiZDNIvAGOh7mk7bhbf5zh>) this Christmas. Together we mourn and sing "Ceasefire now!" for all the babies born and killed in Palestine today, for all those trying to escape an oppressive regime.

In solidarity,
Ryana Holt

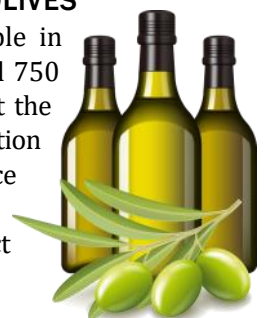
IMMIGRATION COMMITTEE-CONCERN ABOUT U.S. IMMIGRATION POLICY

Holy Trinity's Immigration Committee continues to be concerned about U.S. immigration policy. Alongside other faith leaders throughout the country, we are demanding a safeguarding of critical asylum protections. At the moment we want to highlight our shared concern that various members of the U.S. Congress are proposing drastic, hurtful changes in asylum policies. We encourage you to consider acting! For more information please visit:

<https://www.interfaithimmigration.org/2023/11/30/faith-groups-urge-congress-to-protect-asylum/>

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](#) to purchase.



WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2023

4:00 PM		9:00 PM
Doug Mork	Preacher	Doug Mork
Ingrid Rasmussen, David Larson-Martínez	Presiding Minister	Ingrid Rasmussen, David Larson-Martínez
Mary Engen, Ginny Jordan	Altar Guild	Doris Gbala
Bea Martin	Assisting Minister	
Libby and Keith Olstad	Communion	Dennis O'Brien
Ginny and Chuck Jordan	Ushers	Sally and David Kohlstedt
	Counters	John Sulzbach, Wayne Vetter
	Closer	John Sulzbach
Jan Mehlhoff	Video Operator	

CHANGES TO UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES

- 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.

BELLS AT BECKETWOOD!

The Gloria Ringers presented a program of Christmas Carols at the Becketwood Cooperative on Wednesday evening. The program showcased the many talents of the Gloria Ringers. A wonderful time was had by all.

Do you have a suggestion for a future community performance location? Contact Logan at lolson@htlcmpls.org. Thanks for supporting our mission of bringing our music into the Minneapolis community!



PARISH EVENTS DECEMBER 24-30, 2023

Sunday, December 24	2:00 PM	Swahili Service
	4:00 PM	Worship Service of Holy Communion
	9:00 PM	Worship Service of Holy Communion
Monday, December 25		Office Closed
Tuesday, December 26	2:00 PM	Office Closes
Wednesday, December 27	2:00 PM	Office Closes
Thursday, December 28	2:00 PM	Office Closes
Friday, December 29	2:00 PM	Office Closes
	5:00 PM	Swahili Service

LIVESTREAM LINKS FOR WORSHIP SERVICES

A [live-stream](#) of the 4:00 p.m. Sunday service is available online at 3:55 p.m. You can access recordings of previous worship services [here](#).

