



WE ACKNOWLEDGE THAT WE GATHER ON THE DAKOTA HOMELAND

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

GRATITUDE

This week the building has been quiet. Our building partners are on break, weekly activities have paused, there are just a few staff members around. It's nice to have this time between Christmas and the beginning of the new year to pause. Reflecting on the previous year, planning for the next, catching up on things, setting goals, exploring possibilities. For this time, I am grateful.

In the quiet of the week, much work is still being done. Pastor David is thinking of the year ahead: programming, youth trips and activities, all the things that provide space and education for our young members to thrive. Cantor Phil is planning, organizing, singing, and humming as he works, bringing beautiful music to the life of the church in so many creative ways. Nolan and Dana are buzzing about the building tackling the to-do lists we created to give the building a little extra care to ensure it is ready to greet everyone warmly in the new year. I'm managing the office, muddling through end of year tasks, preparing calendars and schedules, entering pledges, hoping I'm not forgetting anything. For this work, I am grateful.

While working on the seasonal calendar, preparing for the annual meeting and the many other things happening in the coming months, I find myself reflecting on the past year, stepping into this role. Thinking about mistakes I have made, things I've gotten wrong, things I've gotten right. It's been an exciting year, learning new things, working alongside gifted colleagues, getting to know members of the congregation and the community. For your support, grace, and patience, I am grateful.



Earlier this year during a staff retreat we participated in an activity that asked us to create a collage of words and images found in magazines to help us engage in conversation about things that spoke to us in this quick exercise. I keep mine on
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FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS DECEMBER 31, 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 858 5687 1594; Password 317879.

December 31 No Adult Forum

January 7 "Anti-Zionism vs. Anti-Semitism and Christian Zionism"

Rabbi Jessica Rosenberg

Rabbi Jessica Rosenberg from Jewish Voice for Peace recently became known for confronting President Biden at an event in Northfield. Ordained in 2018, she is a rabbi with the progressive reconstructionist Jewish movement. She will talk about Anti-Zionism vs. Anti-Semitism and Christian Zionism. This is a timely opportunity to learn more about these current topics.

"Rosenberg has been described as a member of the LGBTQ+ community and in 2020 wrote a handbook on "trauma, healing and resistance" for Jewish leaders and activists."

- Newsweek

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

REMINDER

There is only one worship service this Sunday at 10:00 a.m. and there is no education programming. The regular worship schedule and education programming will resume January 7.



PARISH INFORMATION

(Continued from previous page)

the bulletin board by my desk. While clearing off the bulletin board, I looked at this collage again, thinking about the words on the page. A lot of these words resonate with me as I think about the past year, this congregation, and the work that we do. The past few years have been challenging to say the least, but I feel like 2023 had us finding our way back to community, back to belonging, back to gathering together in safe spaces, back to feeling whole again. There is a lot of good stuff that happens here. We have such a caring, passionate, and talented congregation. The gifts you all share to help make these good things happen are so appreciated, needed, and valued. One of the phrases in this collage that stands out the most to me is "In pursuit of happiness wholeness." As individuals we can do things to find and share happiness, but as a community I feel we can do amazing things to bring wholeness to ourselves and those around us. There is big life inside this congregation, for that I am grateful.

I'm entering 2024 with a full heart, nourished soul, and much gratitude for the members of this staff, this congregation, this community. Blessings and peace to you.

~ Kathy Ekwall



It has been a wonderful calendar year at Holy Trinity! I have continued to greatly enjoy spending time with families and children on Wednesday evenings. My hope is that even those who do not participate in choirs will consider joining us for a meal and open gym time in the coming year. There have been some bumps along the way as we figure out what weekly faith formation looks like on Sunday mornings, but I am exceedingly grateful for all the teachers who have been a consistent source of support and encouragement. My hope is that more folks will volunteer to help in the classrooms during the coming year. Finally, it has been a source of joy to be your pastor! I have struggled through some bits of figuring out what it means to shift into this role, but overall it has been a source of joy! I am so grateful to be trusted by this community as pastor. I do not hold this trust lightly and pray that God will lead me to faithful service among you.

~Pastor David

I am so grateful for the many dedicated musicians at Holy Trinity. Thanks for joyfully sharing your talents and time with this congregation! To all those who supported efforts to restore the handbells this summer, I am grateful and amazed by your generosity. Thank you for keeping the bells ringing for years to come!

~Logan Olson

I'm grateful to serve alongside wonderful colleagues. The team approach to ministry gives me life. I am daily amazed by the giftedness and the compassion and vision and humor of the staff at Holy Trinity. We meet regularly and often comment on how supported we feel by members of the congregation. The Spirit infuses this community of faith with energy, and y'all share it generously with each other and with the wider world. I come to the end of 2023 with thankfulness in my heart for the past ten years in this church and look forward to our life together in 2024!

~Pastor Ingrid

As another year comes to a close I want to offer gratitude to the more than 75 people who have been part of the music ministry at Holy Trinity in the past year. I look forward to 2024 and the continued work of the music ministry to sharing the message through the many and various talents our community has. You all rock!

Adult Choir - Your commitment and beauty warms people's hearts every Sunday.

Cantors - Thank you for leading worship in a meaningful way.

Children's Choir - You always make my day that much better. You share music passionately.

Gloria Ringers - "Wow!" is what I think every time I hear you play.

Guest Musicians - You are a blessing to our community with the talents you share.

Music Staff (Erik, Logan) - I am blessed to work with the best, most kindhearted, caring and dedicated people in the field.

Pop-up Choirs - You amaze me every time we get to make music together.

Trinity Singers - You inspire those who hear you every note you sing.

~ Cantor Phil

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 2023 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!

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 its 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.

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.



HAPPENING THIS WEEK

TUESDAY, JANUARY 2—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).



SAVE THE DATE

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10 AND THURSDAY, JANUARY 11—YOGA CLASSES AT HOLY TRINITY

Regardless of who you are, what you look like, or whom you love, James Orione believes that creating a space for everybody is very important. Society places many expectations and roles as to how, what, when, where, and why you are doing something instead of simply being. Through conscious movement connected to breath, you have an opportunity to learn how to be in this moment. Yoga is an opportunity to create, rediscover, and connect to the experience of being human and overcome the obstacles that stand in your path. Join us weekly, Wednesdays at Noon or Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. beginning Wednesday, January 10 and Thursday, January 11.

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).

MONDAY-FRIDAY, JANUARY 15-19 –HOLY TRINITY DELIVERS MEALS ON WHEELS

Holy Trinity volunteers will deliver meals for South Minneapolis Meals on Wheels on Monday-Friday, January 15-19. Volunteers pick up meals at 11:15 a.m. at Nokomis Square (50th St. and 35th Ave. S). Meal delivery takes about one hour. Contact Mary Engen (engenmary@yahoo.com) to sign up for part or all of the week.



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.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4—YOUTH RECITAL

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. This will serve as our adult forum for the day. Contact Phil if you wish to participate (pradtke@htlcpmls.org)

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11—PANCAKE BREAKFAST

We are relaunching the annual pancake breakfast from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Confirmation students and their families will host the event. This will be a fundraiser for youth service/learning/fun trips. Tickets are \$5 and will be on sale at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 28, as well as at the door on the day of the event. Please consider volunteering!

