



WE ACKNOWLEDGE THAT WE GATHER ON THE DAKOTA HOMELAND

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

### Worship Schedule at Holy Trinity

Dear Members of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church,  
Grace and peace to you as we step into the New Church Year together! We write with joyful anticipation to share an important update about our worship schedule and the heartfelt process that brought us to this decision.

Beginning on Sunday, **January 26, 2025**, Holy Trinity will move to a **single worship service at 10:00 a.m.** This shift reflects the feedback and discernment of our vibrant community, gathered through focus groups, conversations, and written reflections. Your voices shaped this decision, and your hopes for deeper connection, shared worship experiences, and sustainable ministry inspired us to embrace this new chapter.

#### Why the Change?

Many of you expressed appreciation for the sense of unity and energy experienced during our single-service summers. Through thoughtful discussions, we heard how gathering as one body could strengthen community bonds, amplify our worship experience, and foster opportunities to connect across generations. The beauty of shared moments—lifting our voices together in song, witnessing baptisms, or celebrating milestones—was a recurring theme in your reflections.

Additionally, the new schedule allows for:

- **Enhanced community connection:** With one service, we can all experience the richness of Holy Trinity’s music, liturgy, and preaching together.
- **Improved volunteer coordination:** This change makes it easier for more of us to participate in the life of the church without feeling stretched thin.

**Alignment of the morning:** By moving to a 9:00 a.m. education hour, a 10:00 a.m. worship service (with livestream), and an 11:00 a.m. coffee hour, we can better attend to learners of all ages and expand opportunities for fellowship.

We also know that change requires adjustment. Some of you shared concerns about losing the distinct identity of our two services or shifting established routines. We honor these perspectives and remain committed to ongoing dialogue. This is why we’ll gather again in May 2025 to reflect on our experiences, celebrate what’s working, and adjust as needed.

(Continued on next page)

### SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT READINGS



*Malachi 3:1-4; Philippians 1:3-11*  
*Luke 1:68-79; Luke 3:1-6*

#### 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](#) (meeting ID:858 5687 1594; passcode:31787) for those unable to attend in person.

**December 8 “Racial Justice & Hiawatha Golf Course”**  
Kathryn Kelly of Holy Trinity & SaveHiawatha18 will present information about why proposed changes to Hiawatha Golf Course are considered racially unjust, in particular to the Black community, and why the changes violate public equity guidelines.

**December 15 Advent Hymn Singing**  
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.

#### 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.



#### ~ 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 **Pastor David**; Kaia Ellis’s father-in-law **Bill**, preparing for surgery; Karen Batdorf’s sister, **Marie**; Pam Kildahl’s sister, **Wendy**; **Mark Horning**, friend of Tony Wald; **Merlin Wells**; **Ann Schrooten**; **George Madich**; **Mike Kelly**; **Rev. Amy Schifrin**; **Michael Scanlan**; **Aric Sorenson** and **Ty Inglis**; James Nysse’s cousin, **Eric Steckling**; Katie Murray’s mom **Pat**; Jeff Olsen Biebighauser’s mom **Jo**; **Juliet Williamson**; Jan Mehlhoff’s friend, **Margie Guelker**; **Rev. Lynne Morrow**, entering hospice; the family of **Jim Farnes**, Kathy Ekwall’s friend, upon his death.

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## What's Next?

We encourage you to mark your calendars for this special transition beginning on January 26, 2025. This Sunday is already a meaningful day in our life together as we gather for our Annual Meeting. It's the perfect time to embrace this new schedule with hearts full of hope for the future.

We are so grateful for the trust, honesty, and prayer you've brought to this discernment process. Holy Trinity has always been a place where all are welcome, and this decision reflects our shared commitment to strengthening our community as we grow in faith and service.

If you have questions or reflections about this transition, please don't hesitate to reach out to the pastors or members of the Church Council. Together, we look forward to all that God has in store for us in this new season.

In compassion,

Katie Schroeder (Council President), Sandra Hisakuni (Council Vice President), Anne Beschnitt (Council Secretary), Scott Cole (Council Treasurer), Karen Kunze (Council Member), Dennis O'Brien (Council Member), David Kohlstedt (Council Member), Margaret Kolden (Council Member), Zoe Martinez (Council Member), James Nysse (Council Member), Kari Kleven (Council Member), Pastor Ingrid Rasmussen, Pastor David Larson-Martinez, Pastor Doug Mork, and Cantor Phil Radtke

## STILL TIME TO GIVE TO BIPOC EDUCATIONAL GRANTS

Holy Trinity has a Special Appeal for education grants program for BIPOC students. Grants are managed through our partners, Mother St James AME and Tiwahe Foundation and cover a variety of expenses related to higher education.

You may be familiar with what academic expenses cover (e.g. classrooms, professors, research). Harder to see are ancillary expenses that can interfere with completing a degree. Here are few examples: food and utility bills if living off campus, STEM major lab fees, uniforms for internships, contributions to family household expenses if living with parents, family emergencies with unexpected expenses.

Education is a critical strategy for closing the wealth gap between those who identify as white and those who identify as people of color. Many BIPOC students are first-generation attendees with limited family back-up. But here is an opportunity for you to help close that gap. Use the Holy Trinity website for on-line giving, send a check or drop a check in the offering with "BIPOC Grant" in the memo line.

Thanks in advance for your generosity,

Libby Olstad, Reparative Justice Team of Racial Justice and Indigenous Rights Committees

## WEEKEND REMINDERS

### ADVENT BAZAAR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 8:30 A.M.-12:30 P.M.

The Advent Bazaar is here! Sunday, December 8, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Community Room. Our youth will sell your generously donated creations in this festive community event that supports summer youth trips and other youth activities. Favorite baked goods and treats, jelly and other canned goods, or your special hand-made crafts will be graciously accepted. Bring donations to the church building by Saturday morning, December 7, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. It's okay to just plan on shopping too! For questions, please contact Pat Libra or Amy Froiland-Parada.



## HAPPENING THIS WEEK

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10—WEEKLY SCRIPTURE READINGS STUDY

Join Pastor Doug and congregants on Tuesdays at 11:00 a.m. in the youth library or on Zoom to study the assigned worship readings for the upcoming Sunday. Participants need not attend every session, and no prior bible experience is necessary (to join on [Zoom](#): Meeting ID: 872 7504 3389, Passcode: 336030).

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR WEDNESDAYS IN ADVENT

We are looking for volunteers to help with Advent Evening Soup Suppers. We need volunteers to set up, clean up, and make soup on December 11, and we need one more soup maker for December 18. Sign up in the Community Room.

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11—REHEARSALS

Jubilation Ringers will rehearse (5:30-6:00 p.m.). Youth Choir will rehearse (5:45-6:30 p.m.). Gloria Ringers will rehearse (6:00-6:55 p.m.). Soup Supper (in the Community Room) and Advent Wednesday night worship (in the sanctuary) happening this night too.

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13—2025 COMMITTEE GOALS DUE TO CHURCH OFFICE

Active committees, it's time to submit your 2025 committee goals! If you need a reminder of what these might look like, contact Kathy Ekwall or Sue Roberts for a copy of last year's annual report.

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14—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 15.

**SAVE THE DATE**

**HOLY TRINITY DELIVERS MEALS ON WHEELS MONDAY-FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16-20**

Holy Trinity volunteers will deliver meals for South Minneapolis Meals on Wheels on Monday-Friday, December 16-20. Volunteers pick up meals at 11:15 a.m. at Nokomis Square (50<sup>th</sup> St. and 35<sup>th</sup> Ave. S). Meal delivery takes about one hour. Contact Mary Engen ([engenmary@yahoo.com](mailto:engenmary@yahoo.com)) to sign up for part or all of the week.

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18—CHRISTMAS CAROLS CONCERT**

Gloria Ringers and friends will play Christmas carols at Becketwood, December 18, 7:00 p.m.

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19—ENCORE! AT TURTLE BREAD**

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

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27—FINAL DAY TO DROP OFF FINANCIAL GIFTS TO THE CHURCH OFFICE**

If you'd like to make a final gift to the church for the tax year, please bring it in person no later than December 27 to allow time for processing and bank deposit. Mailed year-end gifts must be postmarked by Tuesday, December 31. Thank you so much!

**MONDAY-WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30-JANUARY 1—CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED**

We have very few days when our building partners are on break....we are closing to attend to the floors that receive over 150 people each day and the more than 40 other spaces in the building that host our building partners, community groups and organizations. See you on January 2!

**COMMUNITY PARTNERS**

**CLOSE TO OUR HEARTS AND LONGFELLOW SCHOOL**

Spread joy this Christmas! Support Close to Our Hearts Foundation and Longfellow School with their fundraiser and make a difference. Learn more and donate at [closetoourhearts.org](http://closetoourhearts.org).

**TH!RD ACT ACTS AGAIN**

Join us for our monthly protest at the Wells Fargo branch on 26th and Franklin, Monday, December 9, 12:00-1:00 p.m. Signs, picketing materials, as well as hand warmers provided. Just show up! Remember, we are protesting this bank's continuing huge investments in fossil fuel companies. Questions, call Dennis (309-251-1683) or visit <https://thirdact.org/minnesota/>.

**CAMPING GEAR DONATIONS**

A longtime colleague of Pastor Doug's has started an organization to support our unhoused neighbors, especially in the winter, <https://www.weathertogether-mn.org/>. Last winter they were able to distribute over 400 camping items to individuals to help them stay warm and safe, all donated by outfitters, churches, and individuals. If you have tents, sleeping bags, or sleeping pads to donate, please bring them to the office or to the Community Room.

**ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE**

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. Please join us for worship and other special events in the coming weeks.

**Wednesdays, December 11 and 18—Advent Suppers and Evening Prayer Services**

All are invited to partake in the free Advent soup suppers on Wednesdays 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 Sanctuary. People of all ages are invited to worship. Please note: The service on December 18 will be a *Longest Night Service*, honoring the reality that for those experiencing losses or grief, this can be a difficult time of year.

**Sunday, December 15—Adult Forum Featuring the 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. Join us in the Bartsch Room this week.

**Sunday, December 15—Sunday School Advent and Christmas Program**

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

**Monday, December 23—Church Office Closes at Noon**

The church office closes at noon today. We'll reopen and answer the phones again on Thursday, December 26!

**Tuesday, December 24—Christmas Eve Worship**

We will gather for worship at 4:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve. Please join us for a family-friendly service at 4:00 p.m. and a service led by the Adult Choir at 9:00 p.m.

**Wednesday, December 25—The church office is closed.**

**Sunday, December 29—One Service only**

We will gather on Sunday, December 29, for one service at 10:00 a.m. There are no Godly Play, Trinity Village, Confirmation,





## WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2024

8:45 AM		11:00 AM
Choirs	<b>Preacher</b>	Choirs
Ingrid Rasmussen	<b>Presiding Minister</b>	Ingrid Rasmussen
	<b>Crucifer</b>	
Anne Beschnett	<b>Altar Guild</b>	Roberta Shaw
Rick Liedholm	<b>Assisting Minister</b>	Tre Tellor
Andrea Martin	<b>Communion</b>	Dennis O'Brien, Nicki Hines
Helen and Bob Norheim	<b>Ushers</b>	Alan Libra, Chris Amundson
Youth Bazaar	<b>Coffee Servers</b>	Youth Bazaar
	<b>Counters</b>	Deb Helmell
	<b>Closer</b>	Bob Hulteen
	<b>Video Operator</b>	Bob Hulteen

Thanks to all helped and attended the very successful Game Night co-hosted by Holy Trinity and Mother St. James AME. Here are a couple of photos, enjoy!



### PARISH EVENTS DECEMBER 8-14, 2024

Sunday, December 8	8:30 AM -12:30 PM 8:45 AM 10:00 AM 10:00 AM 11:00 AM 2:00 PM	Advent Bazaar Youth Fundraiser Worship Service of Holy Communion Adult Forum Youth Education Worship Service of Holy Communion Swahili Service
Tuesday, December 10	11:00 AM 6:45 PM	Worship Readings Discussion Big Meeting Night
Wednesday, December 11	5:30-6:00 PM 5:45-6:30 PM 6:00-6:55 PM 6:00-7:00 PM 7:00 PM	Jubilation Ringers Youth Choir Gloria Ringers Soup Supper in Community Room Advent Wednesday Evening Prayer in sanctuary
Saturday, December 14	5:30-6:00 PM	Advent Program rehearsal for all

#### 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](#).

