

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 14, 2025

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
MINNEAPOLIS

WELCOME TO ALL

Holy Trinity gathers on the Sacred land of the Dakota People.

The people of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church wish to extend a special welcome to all visitors! Please leave your name and phone number on the visitor card found in the pew.

We are committed to the inclusion of all people, with no exception. Therefore, we practice **open communion**, welcoming all to the table to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion.

Children are full participants in this congregation's worship, educational, and community life! The Mary Martha Room is a quiet space for infants needing to nurse or to nap. For active toddlers, the Community Room has a Children's Corner with books and a table at which to play. Our ushers are ready to assist you in finding the place that best fits your family's needs.

Accessible and all-gender restrooms are located in the nursery on the 2nd floor and in the basement. **Single-use, all gender restrooms** are located on the 1st floor.

For over forty years, this congregation has advocated for the **full welcome**, **inclusion**, **and equity** of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, and asexual (LGBTQIA+) Lutherans in all aspects of the church and the community. We invite all people into lives of authenticity, integrity, and wholeness.

Hearing assist devices and large-print bulletins are available. Ask an usher if you are interested.

Our services are livestreamed on Vimeo and Facebook every week. The live shot includes the main floor of the sanctuary. Our members who watch from home love to see their friends at church! If for privacy reasons you prefer not to be on camera, the balcony is outside of the camera's range.

If you are seeking pastoral care, please speak to a pastor today.

GATHER

+invites the congregation to stand

PRELUDE People Look East P. Radtke

+GATHERING HYMN

Hark, the Glad Sound!

Please stand and face the cross at the rear of the sanctuary.



+GREETING

The grace of Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

+LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Praise to you, O God, who holds our joy and sorrow. You bring water to parched ground and life out of death. Bless us as this light grows, and send sorrow and sighing to flee away. Give us strength and patience, trusting that you are true to your promises. Transform the lives of all who suffer with your wonders near at hand.

Amen.

Please be seated.

WELCOME

CHILDREN AND YOUTH ADVENT PROGRAM

GREAT JOY FOR ALL (edited)

Emmy Kegler

In 2024, an expansive liturgy group commissioned local pastor and author Rev. Emmy Kegler, who is currently on leave from congregational ministry to care for her two young children, to write an Advent / Christmas script for children and youth. The result, Great Joy for All, reflects a number of commitments from the Expansive Language team. It's written for communities with diverse cultural backgrounds, and it captures how wide and deep the beauty and meaning of the Incarnation can be.

INTRODUCTION

HYMN

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers



- 1 Re joice, re joice, be liev ers, and let your lights ap pear;
- 2 The watch-ers on the moun-tain pro-claim the bride-groom near;
- 3 The saints, who here in pa tience their cross and suf f'rings bore,
- 4 Our hope and ex pec ta tion, O Je sus, now ap pear;



the eve-ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near. ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear. go forth as he shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more. longed for, o'er rise, O Sun so this be - night-ed sphere.



The bride-groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw-ing nigh. The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand. A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold; With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry. A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride-groom is at hand. in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold. the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

SCENE Heaven Confirmation Students

HYMN

Again We Find Our Way





HYMN

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus



- 1 Come, thou long-ex pect-ed Je-sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
- 2 Born thy peo-ple to de-liv-er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee. born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra-cious king-dom bring.



Is -rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art, By thine own e - ter - nal Spir-it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev-'ry na-tion, joy of ev-'ry long-ing heart. by thine all-suf - fi - cient mer-it raise us to thy glo-rious throne.



At the conclusion of the program, you are encouraged to shower the actors with love and appreciation!

+INTERCESSIONS Sundays and Seasons

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

(silence)

When lands are parched and dry, bring rain and snow; where wilderness is barren, sow seeds of life. Fill the lands with trees that grow, plants that flower, and creatures that thrive, as nature proclaims the wonder of your works. God of grace,

Hear our prayer.

When there is injustice, strengthen our resolve to honor the holiness of every neighbor. Remind us that no one is ever disposable and that each person is your beloved child. Protect the Somali community in Minneapolis and all immigrant communities, especially when fear or cruel policies threaten their dignity. Make us bold in defending what you have already declared holy. God of grace,

Hear our prayer.

When bodies weaken and hearts grow fearful, speak your blessing. We pray especially for Dorothy Kelly; Kathy Ekwall's friend, Mark Caffrey; Nikki Randolph-Martinez; Carol Kelly; Mary Petersen; Mary Petersen's friends, Jean Ebrahini and Lenny Garber; Mary Heltsley; Tre Tellor's mom Jill; Tina and Neela; Rick Lathrop; Karen Batdorf's sister Marie; Mike Kelly; Josie Tober; and those we hold in our hearts or speak with our voices now (the congregation may name loved ones in need of God's care). In uncertain times, remind us of the promise spoken to our ancestors in faith. God of grace,

Hear our prayer.

When people are imprisoned or held captive, break the chains and offer release. Strengthen the work of the church in restorative justice, breaking cycles of poverty, and welcoming the immigrant (especially we pray for Global Refuge and Lutheran Social Services). God of grace,

Hear our prayer.

You are invited to offer spoken petitions. At the conclusion of your petition, please close with "God of grace," to which the congregation will respond, "Hear our prayer."

Receive our prayers and hopes, God of mercy and justice, as we pray in the name of Jesus the Christ. **Amen.**

MEAL

+PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

You are invited to exchange words and signs of friendship and love with those around you.

OFFERING

All Earth Is Hopeful

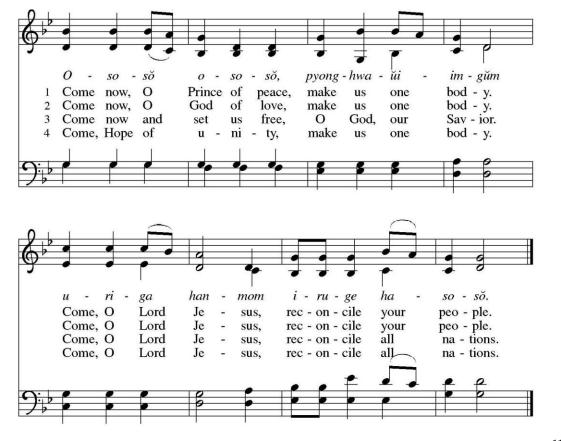
arr. Lynn L. Petersen

Baskets will be passed in the sanctuary. If you prefer to donate to the mission and ministry using Venmo or card, the QR codes can be found on the back page of the bulletin.

+OFFERTORY HYMN

Come Now, O Prince of Peace

Communion servers are invited to come forward at this time.

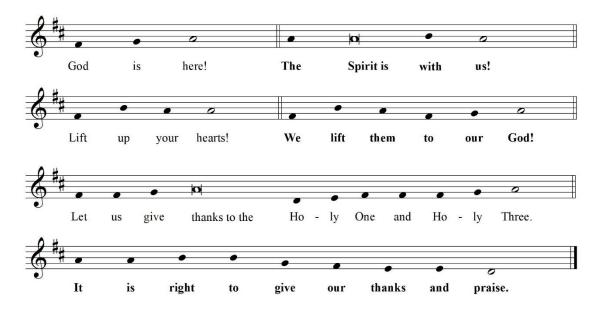


+OFFERING PRAYER

Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Guide.

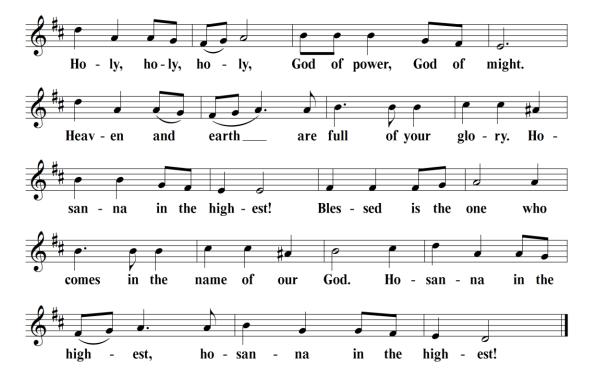
Amen.

+GREAT THANKSGIVING



And now we give you thanks for all we have received through the life, death, and resurrection of our savior Jesus Christ. In Christ you became incarnate in a human body. By your flesh we are freed from sin, death, and all that holds us captive. You have been revealed to us as one who breathes, and you breathe into us new life. Therefore with all heaven and earth, we shout with joy:

+SANCTUS



+LORD'S PRAYER

We pray together,

Our Creator, Our Mother, Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

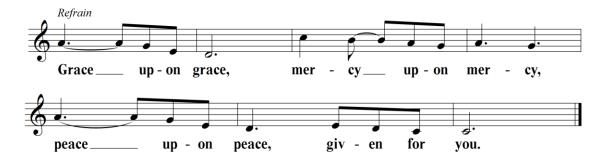
Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

+GRACE UPON GRACE



The Word made flesh dwells among us, full of grace and truth. *Refrain*. Behold our Savior who frees us from the sin of the world. *Refrain*.

Please be seated.

COMMUNION INVITATION

All are welcome at the table. This is Christ's table where no one is a stranger. For those worshiping at home, hear these words spoken for you: The body of Christ given for you. The blood of Christ shed for you.

These are the gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

All are welcome at the table, without exception.

Grape juice and gluten-free wafers are available upon request to the server.

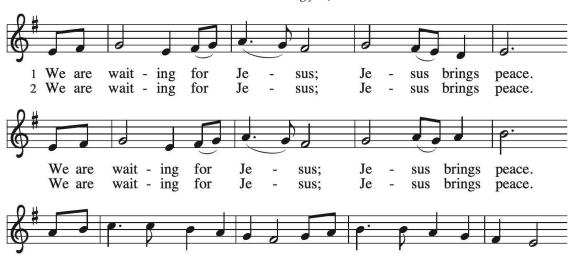
Communion is served by intinction. Upon receiving the bread, dip it into the divided chalice which contains both red wine and white grape juice.

Gluten-free wafers and a dedicated chalice are available on either side of the serving station.

If you wish to receive communion from your pew, please let an usher know.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

We Are Waiting for Jesus



Sun of jus - tice, shine up - on us; we are trust - ing in your prom-ise. Lov-ing Shep-herd, walk be-side us; stir our hearts, and gent - ly guide us.



DISTRIBUTION HYMN

What Feast of Love



- What feast of love is of fered here, what ban-quet come from heav en?
- 2 What light of truth is of fered here, what cov e nant from heav en?
- 3 What wine of love is of fered here, what crim-son drink from heav en?

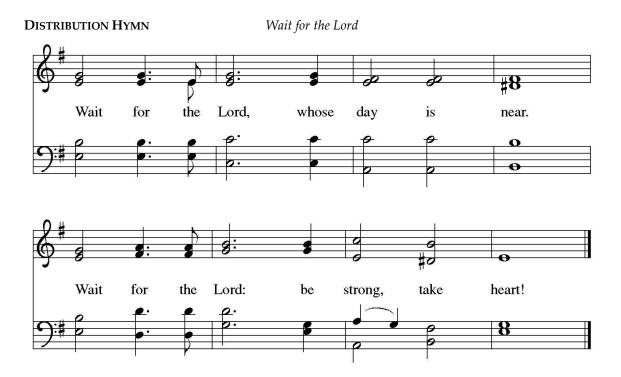


What food of ev - er - last-ing life, what gra - cious gift is giv - en? What hope of ev - er - last-ing life, what won-drous word is giv - en? What stream of ev - er - last-ing life, what pre - cious blood is giv - en?



This, this is Christ the king, the bread come down from heav - en. This, this is Christ the king, the sun come down from heav - en. This, this is Christ the king, the sweet - est wine of heav - en.





+BLESSING

The body and blood of Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.

Amen.

+POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

God, in this meal, you have given us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

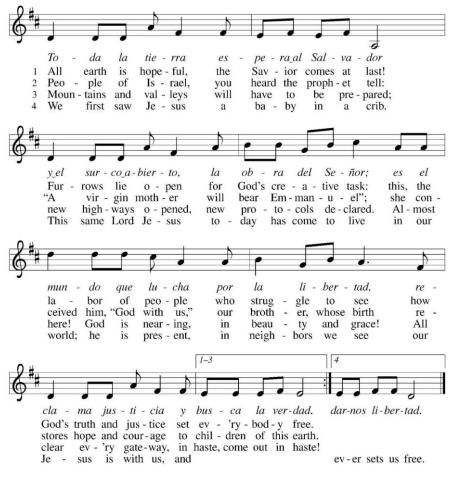
Amen.

SENDING

+SENDING HYMN

All Earth Is Hopeful

Children and youth are invited to join the worship leaders adds they recess and gather at the rear of the sanctuary to share the dismissal.



- 2 Dice el profeta al pueblo de Israel: "De madre virgen ya viene Emmanuel," será "Dios con nosotros," hermano será, con él la esperanza al mundo volverá.
- 3 Montes y valles habrá que preparar; nuevos caminos tenemos que trazar. Él está ya muy cerca, venidlo_a_encontrar, y todas las puertas abrid de par en par.
 - 4 En una cueva Jesús apareció, pero_en el mundo está presente hoy. Vive_en nuestros hermanos, con ellos está; y vuelve de nuevo a darnos libertad.

+BENEDICTION

Go now, and do not be afraid.

Put your hope in God,

who empowers you to sing songs of truthfulness and praise.

And may God watch over you;

May Christ Jesus have compassion for you;

And may the Holy Spirit raise you, each day, to life.

Amen.

+DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Love your neighbors.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Savior of the Nations, Come

arr. Paul Manz

You are invited to the Community Room (located at the rear of the worship area) for a time of conversation and refreshments.

"Hark, the Glad Sound!" Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-1751. Music: CHESTERFIELD, Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820 "Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers" Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660-1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823-1907

Music: HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG, Swedish folk tune

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

Music: JEFFERSON, W. Walker, 'Southern Harmon,' 1835

"Again We Find Our Way" Text: Jeannette M. Lindholm. Music: IDUMEA, A. Davisson, 'Kentucky Harmony', 1816 Text © 2021 Jeannette M. Lindholm, admin. Augsburg Fortress

"Joy to the World" Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748. Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792-1872

"People, Look East" Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881-1965. Music: BESANÇON, French carol; arr. Barry Rose, b. 1934

Text © Miss E. Farjeon Will Trust, by permission of David Higham Associates. Arr. © 1999 Novello & Co. Ltd., London

"We are Waiting for Jesus" Text: John Helgen, b. 1957. Music: JESUS BRINGS PEACE, John Helgen

Text and music © 2013 Augsburg Fortress

"Come Now, O Prince of Peace" Text: Geonyong Lee, b. 1947; tr. Marion Pope. Music: OSOSO, Geonyong Lee Text and music © Geonyong Lee

"What Feast of Love" Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939. Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.

Text © 1993 Delores Dufner OSB, Published by OCP Publications

"Wait for the Lord" Text" Text: Taizé Community. Music: WAIT FOR THE LORD, Jcques Berthier, 1923-1994 Text and music © 1984 Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent

"All Earth Is Hopeful" Text: Alberto Taulé, b. 1932; tr. Madeleine Forell Marshall, b. 1946

Music: TODA LA TIERRA, Alberto Taulé

Spanish text and tune © 1993 and English text © 1995 Centro de Pastoral Litúrgica, admin. OCP Publications

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

2730 East 31st Street, Minneapolis, MN 55406 612-729-8358 ★ htlcmpls.org

LITURGY: SIGHS TOO DEEP FOR WORDS

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Preacher	Holy Trinity Children and Youth		
Presiding Minister	David Larson-Martínez (he/him)		
Crucifer	Noah Hines (he/him)		
Assisting Minister	Bea Martin (he/him)		
Communion	Ben Hanson (he/him), Emma Murray (she/her), Will Hansen (he/him), Kris Christians (she/her), Sean Gosiewski (he/him)		
Ushers	Chris Engen (he/him), Chuck Jordan (he/him), David Broberg (he/him)		
Altar Guild	Ginny Jordan (she/her), Mary Engen (she/her)		
Coffee Servers	Deb Anderson (she/her)		
Counters	Deb Helmel (she/her)		
Closer			
Video Operator	Jeff Weiss		

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STAFF

Ingrid Rasmussen (she/her), Lead Pastor
David Larson-Martínez (he/him), Associate Pastor
Doug Mork (he/him), Part-time Associate Pastor
Kathy Ekwall (she/her), Communications &
Congregational Coordinator
Nolan Gusdal (he/him), Building Maintenance
Phil Radtke (he/him), Cantor
Kaia Ellis (she/her), Financial Administrator

STAFF, CONTINUED

Sue Roberts (she/her), Publications Coordinator Edgar Alvarez (he/him), Custodian Dana Simms (he/him), Custodian Logan Olson (he/him), Gloria Ringers Director Andrew Winfield (he/him), Accompanist

LEADERSHIP

Anne Beschnett (she/her), Council President Sandra Hisakuni (she/her), Council Vice President James Nysse (he/him), Council Secretary George Henry (he/him), Council Treasurer

COMMUNITY INFORMATION

ADVENT CALENDARS IN THE NARTHEX

Advent calendars are available in the Narthex. Take one for you and one for a friend!

SOUP SUPPER AND LONGEST NIGHT EVENING PRAYER SERVICE WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17

Please join us on Wednesday, December 17, for soup and mac & cheese from 6:00-6:50 p.m. in the Community Room. Free-will donations are accepted. The community then gathers at 7:00 p.m. for the Longest Night Service of Holden Evening Prayer in the candlelit Sanctuary, where we sing and hear God's story read aloud. Children's Choir and Cantate will rehearse together from 5:45 to 6:30 p.m.

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.

COMMITMENT CARDS FOR 2026

We invite members and friends to consider making a financial commitment to the mission and ministry of Holy Trinity for 2026. Your gifts will allow us to support our dedicated staff, offer our space for community use, sustain our commitment to neighborhood recovery, and continue organizing for the wellbeing of all—especially in divisive times. You may pledge online or by filling out one of the pledge cards found in the Community Room.

THURSDAY-FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25-26—CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

The church office is closed, so that staff can spend time with their friends and families.

DECEMBER 29-31, JANUARY 2—HOLY TRINITY DELIVERS MEALS ON WHEELS

Holy Trinity volunteers will deliver meals for South Minneapolis Meals on Wheels on Monday-Wednesday and Friday, December 29-31, January 2. 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 to sign up for part or all of the week.

SUGARCANE SHOWING SUNDAY, JANUARY 18, 11:30 A.M.

Please join us in the Bartsch Room on Sunday, January 18, at 11:30 a.m. for a showing of the award-winning debut feature documentary from Julian Brave NoiseCat and Emily Kassie. *Sugarcane* is a groundbreaking investigation into an Indian residential school. More information to follow. Sign up in the Community Room.

PASTOR DAVID ON SABBATICAL DECEMBER 31, 2025–MARCH 25, 2026

Sabbaticals are a benefit extended to all regular staff at Holy Trinity, and I am grateful for and looking forward to mine! For me this will be a time of leaning into rootedness, connecting with heart languages, and traveling to places where friends and family live. I am sure that this time away will allow me to return re-energized for all the faithful work we do in our community.

During my time away, the committees I relate to will be able to call on one of the pastors for their needs. The Children and Family Committee, the Youth Committee, the AMMPARO/Immigration Committee, and the Music in the Garden Committee will relate to Pastor Doug. The Nurturing Relationships Committee, the Caring for Creation Committee, and the Palestine/Israel Committee will relate to Pastor Ingrid.

We are actively interviewing candidates for the Children, Youth, and Family Coordinator position. It is our hope that this new individual will be able to take on the roles of guiding Sunday School teachers, leading Confirmation, and helping during Wednesday evening gatherings. We will update the congregation with pertinent information as we are able.

Thank you for making sabbaticals a priority at Holy Trinity!

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24-CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP 4:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.

Join us at 4:00 p.m. for a family-friendly service featuring members of the Children's Choir and Cantate and a service at 9:00 p.m. led by the Adult Choir

THURSDAY-FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25-26—CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

The church office is closed, so that staff can spend time with their friends and families.

CHURCH SCHEDULE

Monday, December 15	6:30-8:00 PM	Adult Choir Rehearsal
Tuesday, December 16	11:00 AM	Worship Readings Discussion
	6:30 PM	Executive Council
	7:00 PM	Church Council
Wednesday, December 17	5:45-6:30 PM	Children's Choir and Cantate Rehearse
	6:00-6:50 PM	Advent Supper
	7:00 PM	Longest Night Service
	7:00 PM	Gloria Ringers and Jubilation at Becketwood
Thursday, December 18	8:00 AM	Encore! at Turtle Bread
	7:00 PM	Chanting the Psalms with Ann Schrooten
Sunday, December 21	9:00 AM	Intergenerational Cookie Decorating
	10:00 AM	Worship Service of Holy Communion
	12:00 PM	Swahili Service

ADULT FORUM

9:00 a.m. each Sunday in the Library

TODAY "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 and we might even preview a favorite Christmas Carol or two if requested. Join us in the Bartsch Room this week.

December 21 "Intergenerational Cookie Decorating"

Join us in the Community Room for a fun *intergenerational* event as we decorate cookies together! All supplies will be provided—just bring your creativity and sweet tooth. This joyful gathering will take the place of both the Adult Forum and Children, Youth, and Family education this week. All ages are welcome to come share in the fun, connect with others, and enjoy a sweet start to the season!

DONATE

We are grateful for your donations that allow us to build community in this corner of Minneapolis and beyond!



Venmo



Credit/Debit Card