



HOLY TRINITY GATHERS ON THE SACRED LAND OF THE DAKOTA PEOPLE

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

JOIN US EVERY SUNDAY FOR WORSHIP SERVICE AT 10:00 A.M.

THE MESSY SEASON

Advent is a time of tension and wonder

By [Meta Herrick Carlson](#),

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Advent is my favorite season in the liturgical calendar. A fresh set of *Sundays and Seasons* resources feels a little bit like back to school. Advent is only four weeks, and they fly by, which makes it nearly impossible to tell all the stories associated with this season in worship—especially when so many of us make room on one of those Sundays for a children's Christmas program or the choir's Christmas cantata.

Christmas tries to sneak in early every year—and we let it. The magi figurines go up with the rest of the nativity scene. We light trees and dare to sing a few carols before the 24th. For all the ways we sing and pray and hear that these weeks are a pregnant pause in the life of the church, we're not immune from the hustle and mess of Christmas coming early.

And guess what? That's OK! In fact, I think a messy Advent is the best Advent sermon there is. There are mornings when the kids fight about who gets to open the door on the [Advent calendar](#), and there are mornings when everyone forgets. While we're jumping back and forth from Jesus preaching about the end of days to John's conception to Isaiah's prophecy to Joseph dreaming, our communities are experiencing the already and the not yet. The revelation of incarnation cannot be neatly tucked away in a pretty box and bow until Christmas Day.

Maybe the church doesn't need to keep these seasons strictly separate. Maybe we're meant to let our inner child get caught up in the anticipation of this season the way children do—with a frenetic excitement for right now and a deep imagination for what's still to come. Advent can be an invitation to help our people practice paradox and to remember that, in Jesus, God

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SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

[READINGS ARE PRINTED IN THE
BULLETIN FOR THIS SUNDAY](#)

ADULT FORUM

Holy Trinity Adult Forums feature in-person presentations beginning at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday. The presentations are also available via [Zoom](#) (meeting ID:858 5687 1594; passcode:317879) for those unable to attend in person.

December 7 MAKERS AND BAKERS ADVENT BAZAAR

You're invited to shop the Makers and Bakers Advent Bazaar youth fundraiser during the adult forum hour. All proceeds help to support summer youth trips in 2026. The bazaar takes the place of the adult forum today.

December 14 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.

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!

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.

HOLY TRINITY SEEKS CYF MINISTRY COORDINATOR

The Children, Youth, and Family (CYF) Ministry Coordinator will work in collaboration with the Associate Pastor and provide organization and leadership for children's faith formation and support for youth programs and events throughout the year. Candidates will work consistent with the congregation's values. Learn more at <https://htlcmpls.org/site/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/Children-Youth-and-Family-Ministry-Coordinator.pdf>

knows what it's like to live according to both a human chronology and heavenly time. It's tension and wonder—and a total mess.

God becomes human for the beautiful mess we are in every season—so why not this one too?

I believe the miracle and gift of the incarnation means that God cares about our candlelit sanctuaries and our sentimental ornaments and our generous end-of-year giving, but that's not where it ends. Not even close!

God becomes human to hear fifth-grade band concerts and to hold the weight of wishes whispered to mall Santas, to laugh with parents when they see their kids trying on last year's snow clothes that are way too small, to honor the boundaries of those who cannot go home for Christmas and who celebrate with chosen family instead. God becomes human for the beautiful mess we are in every season—so why not this one too?

Like so many Lutherans, my family says, "Come, Lord Jesus," at dinner time. These are Advent words, an invitation both urgent and timeless, that God would be present at both our high altars and our dinner tables, in our worship services and in the colorful prayers muttered under our breath when the season gets stressful.

Because God isn't only partially interested in our mortality or occasionally committed to loving the world. God is all in. Our worship and faith practices are some of the ways we wait for God, and God is here this season. If Mary can embody the word of God, what else can be true about the finite holding the infinite? What other boundaries have been blurred between the ordinary and the sacred, the mortal and the everlasting?

My prayer for you this Advent season is one you might not expect from a pastor, but I offer it in case you need it this year:

*I pray you make a mess of this season,
you let others see you frazzled
so they can offer to help, and love you well.*

*I pray something primary falls apart
so you experience relief and receive grace.*

*I pray you let your inner child loose
for even one hour or one day
and let her get away with something.*

*I pray you don't spend too much energy
safeguarding Advent from Christmas,
so you can play in the paradox of
two worlds of time swirling at once.*

*I pray you will stand in the mirror
and look at your own body with love—
a revelation, an incarnation, a holy home.*

*I pray you will know the presence of the God
who delights in your whole life and is born
every year, whether you're ready or not.*

THIS WEEK

GAME NIGHT SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6

An evening of games, pizza, and connecting in community, join the Racial Justice Committee and Mother Saint James AME on Saturday, December 6, from 5:30-7:30 in the Holy Trinity Library. Bring a game or two you would like to play and an openness to try a new game with new people! A great way to spend a winter evening.

MAKERS AND BAKERS ADVENT BAZAAR

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 8:30 A.M.-12:30 P.M.

This is a special invitation to shop the upcoming youth benefit Advent Bazaar! It will be on Sunday, December 7, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Holy Trinity. Our youth will sell your generously donated creations in this festive community event that supports summer youth trips and other HT youth activities.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR WEDNESDAYS IN ADVENT

We are looking for volunteers to help with Advent Evening Soup Suppers (December 10 and 17). For each meal, we especially need volunteers to set up and clean up each of these evenings. Sign up in the Community Room.

ADVENT SOUP SUPPERS AND EVENING PRAYER SERVICES WEDNESDAYS, DECEMBER 10 and 17

Please join us on Wednesday evenings during Advent for the following opportunities:

- All are invited to partake in the Advent soup and mac & cheese suppers on Wednesdays 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 Service of Holden Evening Prayer in the candlelit Sanctuary, where we sing and hear God's story read aloud. The Longest Night Evening Prayer service will take place on December 17.
- Children's Choir and Cantate will rehearse together from 5:45 to 6:30 p.m.; Jubilation Ringers will rehearse from 5:30 to 6:00 p.m.; and Gloria Ringers will rehearse from 6:00 to 6:55 p.m.

CHRIST BE OUR LIGHT: CHANTING THE PSALMS IN HOPE WILL NOT MEET THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11

The final gathering will be Thursday, December 18, from 7:00-8:00 p.m.

~ 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 Kathy Ekwall's friend, **Mark Caffrey**; **Nikki Randolph-Martinez**; Margaret Kelly's mom **Carol**; **Mary Petersen**; Mary Petersen's friends, **Jean Evrahini** and **Lenny Garber**; **Mary Heltsley**; Tre Teller's mom **Jill**; **Tina** and **Neela**; Tracey Baubie's mom **ShaRon**; **Rick Lathrop**; Karen Batdorf's sister **Marie**; **Mike Kelly**; **Josie Tober**.

SAVE THE DATE

CHILDREN'S PROGRAM REHEARSALS DECEMBER 13 AND 14

On Saturday, December 13, children and youth will gather in the sanctuary from 9:00-11:00 a.m. to practice lines, sing their songs, and try on their costumes for their annual Advent program. Caregivers should arrive for pick-up at 10:45 a.m.

On Sunday, December 14, children and youth will gather in the sanctuary from 9:00-9:45 a.m. for a final rehearsal of lines, songs, and costuming before we perform the Advent Program for the 10:00 a.m. worship service.

MATILDA JR. THE MUSICAL—DECEMBER 13 AND 14

Holy Trinity Youth, Annika Lindorfer and Francis Kelly are part of the cast of Matilda Jr. The Musical. Performances are Friday, December 12 and Saturday, December 13 at 7:00 p.m. with seating at 6:30 p.m. at Sandford Middle School, 3524 42nd Ave. S. You can find more information at:

<https://www.projectsucccess.org/register/musicals/>

INVITATION FROM PASTOR DOUG

I would like to invite you to consider joining me in leading Holy Trinity's participation in a statewide (and national) faith-based effort to resist authoritarianism. Powerfully led by ISAIAH, a state-wide organization of faith communities, this effort aims to organize tens of thousands of people of faith across Minnesota onto a path of resistance that will include a major march on the afternoon of Palm Sunday and a national mobilization to Washington, DC on the 4th of July.

Join me for *A Light in the Storm: Agenda Launch and Anti-Authoritarianism Strategy Training* from 1:00-6:00 p.m. on **Saturday, December 13**, at the Minneapolis Convention Center. This event will include thousands of people of faith from across the state and will set the path for the next year. I would love to have at least 5 members from Holy Trinity with me for that day, though I know it is a big ask in a busy season. Thanks for considering this invitation!

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18, 7:00 P.M.

CHRIST BE OUR LIGHT: CHANTING THE PSALMS IN HOPE

This will be the final gathering for the chanting of the Psalms. Please join us from 7:00-8:00 p.m. in the sanctuary.

MIDWINTER CELEBRATION IN LONGFELLOW — DECEMBER 21

Longfellow Rising invites the community to a Midwinter Celebration on Sunday, December 21, from 3:30-5:30 PM. Together we will welcome the Winter Solstice with light, movement, art, and connection.

The event begins at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church (2730 E 31st St) before continuing in a gentle procession to the Hi Lake mural and onward to the plaza between Moon Palace Books and Pangea World Theater. Along the way, participants can expect song, poetry, shared warmth, and hot beverages. The evening concludes inside Pangea with drinks from around the world.

Most activities will take place outdoors, weather permitting. Please dress warmly and bring anything that helps you move comfortably. If you need support at any point, assistance is available at longfellowrising@gmail.com or 612-487-8109.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR MIDWINTER CELEBRATION

To make this celebration welcoming and smooth for all, we are seeking volunteers for a variety of roles, including:

- Welcoming people as they arrive
- Handing out tea lights
- Leading or tailing the procession
- Traffic monitoring (vests provided)
- Setting up luminaria (paper bags with sand) at the Plaza
- Helping set up the Pangea space and beverage bar
- Serving hot drinks at Pangea
- Cleaning up at the Plaza and at Pangea
- Hauling garbage/compost to receptacles

Escorting people back to the church if needed

If you can help, please sign up in the Community Room. Your presence helps create a safe, warm, and joyful night for the whole neighborhood. Thank you!

WEDNESDAY, 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. featuring members of the Children's Choir and Cantate and a service led by the Adult Choir at 9:00 p.m.

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.



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.



ADDITIONAL NOTES

LONGFELLOW SCHOOL REQUEST AND THANK YOU

A sincere thank you to all who donated clothes for Longfellow School, your kindness is greatly appreciated! They have received enough clothes donations, but are looking for assistance with diaper donations (sizes 4, 5, and 6) and mittens and gloves. Donations can be put in a box in the Community Room.

PASTOR DAVID PREPARES FOR SABBATICAL— DECEMBER 31, 2025-MARCH 25, 2026

Sabbaticals are a benefit extended to all 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!

BYSTANDER INTERVENTION TIPS IN MOMENTS OF CONFLICT

Can you remember a time when you witnessed conflict and were confused about how and if you should act? You see a child bullying another child at a playground. You observe racial harassment in a traffic stop. You hear a Spanish speaking neighbor and citizen confronted by ICE. Is it best to keep your distance or try to intervene? There are no easy answers. But there are some options for taking action to consider.

Many community agencies offer training on how to **be** a helpful observer in conflictual situations and, when appropriate, take action to reduce the tensions or harm that can come to a victim. You may want to attend one of these trainings, but even if you can't do that there are steps you can **take** with bystander intervention. One resource is Bystander Observation and the "Five Ds."

The link below offers some tips helpful for bystanders. The link could be useful to you at school, at work, in your family or in your community.

~Holy Trinity Racial Justice Committee

<https://righttobe.org/guides/bystander-intervention-training>

DATA CENTER PETITION NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

The rapid proliferation of AI technology requires the construction of massive data centers throughout our country (and the world). What is just becoming evident, is the massive drain these centers are on energy and resources. The centers already constructed are using water and electricity equivalent to a quarter of a million households! What a drain on the community and state hosting them.

Third Act Minnesota and a consortium of climate and environmental groups want the state legislature to enact legislation requiring a thorough Environmental Impact Report before centers are approved in Minnesota.

We urge you to sign a petition asking for just that! And we are aiming for at least 10,000 signatures by December 20 when the petition must be submitted to the governor's office.

I will be at the next 3 fellowship hours after worship with more information on this issue as well as the invitation for you to sign the petition. Come and seek me out!

~ Dennis O'Brien

Thanks to all who participated in packing boxes for college students last Sunday! Enjoy some photos from the event.



WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 10:00 AM

Preacher	Holy Trinity Choirs and Ensembles
Presiding Minister	Ingrid Rasmussen (she/her)
Cantor	Abs Trewin (they/he)
Altar Guild	Annie Hines (she/her), Lori Lathrop (she/her)
Crucifer	Tre Tellor (he/they)
Assisting Minister	Margaret Kelly (she/her)
Communion	Carol Berg (she/her), Scott Cole (he/him), Stephanie Cole (she/her)
Ushers	Alan Libra (he/him), David Rediger (he/him), DeWayne Townsend IV (he/him)
Coffee Servers	Children and Youth
Counters	Julie Cahoy (she/her)
Closer	Rod Johnson (he/him)
Video Operator	Bob Hulteen (he/him)

PARISH EVENTS DECEMBER 7-13, 2025

Sunday, December 7	8:30 AM-12:30 PM	Makers and Bakers Advent Bazaar
	8:30 AM	Family Coffee Hour
	9:00 AM	Adult Forum
	9:00 AM	Youth Education
	10:00 AM	Worship Service of Holy Communion
	12:00 PM	Swahili Service
Monday, December 8	6:30-8:00 PM	Adult Choir Rehearsal
Tuesday, December 9	11:00 AM	Worship Readings Discussion
	6:45 PM	Big Meeting Night
Wednesday, December 10	5:30-6:00 PM	Jubilation Youth Bell Ensemble
	5:45-6:30 PM	Children's Choir & Cantate Rehearsal
	6:00-6:50 PM	Advent Soup Supper
	6:00-6:55 PM	Gloria Ringers Rehearsal
	7:00 PM	Advent Evening Prayer Service
Saturday, December 12	9:00-11:00 AM	Children and Youth Advent Presentation Rehearsal

LIVESTREAM LINKS FOR WORSHIP SERVICES

A [live-stream](#) of the 10:00 a.m. Sunday service is available online at 9:55 a.m.
You can access recordings of previous worship services [here](#).

