



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.

## Creating a place of belonging through volunteering

Like most of us, I have been feeling the heaviness of what is happening in our country, our communities, and to our neighbors. It can be a challenge at times to reflect on 2025 and pull out moments of goodness. But those moments are there and I find many of them within this congregation.

Often when asked about working at Holy Trinity, I use the phrase, “you never know what’s going to happen,” and that part is true. But I also know what IS going to happen. We are going to support our neighbors. We are going to stand up to injustices. We are going to welcome members, friends, neighbors, and strangers into this space. We are going to offer them comfort, a space to feel seen, valued, and respected. Together we are going to build community and create a place of belonging.

The work of creating belonging is not only that of the pastors and staff, it is the work of all of us. It is through our members and volunteers that we can create a welcoming environment that focuses on acceptance and connection. That is particularly important on Sundays. The role of our worship volunteers is vital. It is through those that help with altar guild, greeting, ushering, serving communion, offering coffee and treats, livestreaming, leading worship through readings and prayer that we can create a place of belonging. Sure, the pastors are important, but it is our volunteers that are the lifeblood of our church. Imagine being the one to welcome a visitor in that may be searching for meaning or serving communion to someone exploring their faith or offering treats to someone hoping to feel at home. I love imagining those possibilities and how the opportunities on Sunday morning can help create space for belonging as well as giving volunteers a sense of purpose.

I invite you to explore Sunday morning volunteer opportunities. Over the next several weeks, we will have sign up sheets in the Community Room. You can also call the office or email me if you are interested in learning more about opportunities. You can volunteer in ways that fit your schedule, your personality, your sense of purpose. You can sign up to help with something once a year, once a month, once a quarter, whatever works for you. If you have a spouse or friend you’d like to team up with, let me know, we can make sure you are scheduled together. Volunteering as a family is great too, especially for greeting/usher or serving coffee and treats.

For those that have been volunteering, we will also have our

*(continued on next page)*

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### READINGS

*Isaiah 7:10-16; PSALM 80:1-7, 17-19*

*Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25*

### 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 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.

#### DECEMBER 28 NO EDUCATION CLASSES

We rejoice in God with us and enjoy rest. We will meet again on January 4, 2026.

### ~ 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 **Wilson Murray**; **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**; **Rosmary Foley’s sister**, nearing the end of her life



#### CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS—BY MONDAY, DECEMBER 22

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](mailto:office@htlcmpls.org)) by Monday, December 22, so we can include them in the printed bulletin for Christmas Eve. 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.

## PARISH INFORMATION

current volunteer rosters on the table to allow you the opportunity to be removed from a list if you wish to move on from those duties.

It is my privilege to create space together with all of you that offers warmth, kindness, and a place of belonging. I truly appreciate this congregation and the many ways we create moments of goodness.

~Kathy Ekwall

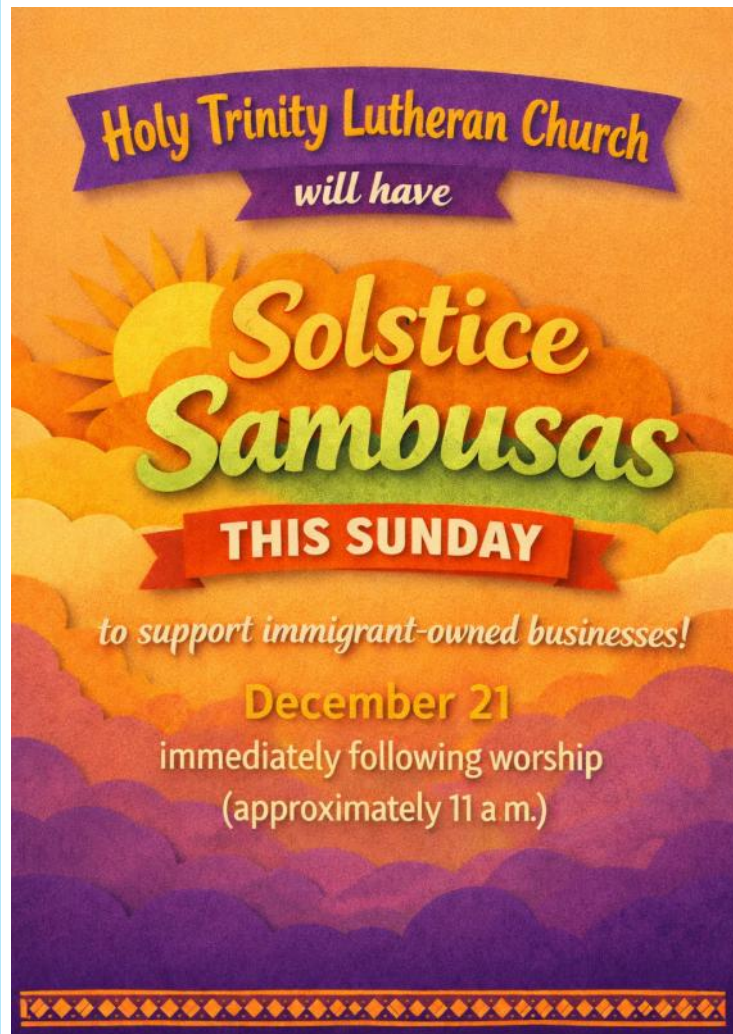
### THIS WEEK

#### NO PEACE WHILE BETHLEHEM IS UNDER FIRE

Feeling the need to sing? MNChristians for Free Palestine is looking for Ceasefire Carolers for the Saturday, December 20, protest outside Orchestra Hall at 3:30 p.m., organized by Minnesota Peace Action Coalition. We will be singing carols from lyrics sheets. If you would like to go through the carols ahead of time and/or help pass out lyrics sheets and/or hold a sign, please arrive outside Orchestra Hall by 3:10. If you know for sure that you'd like to come and sing, please email Donna Goodlaxson ([40acreslcs@gmail.com](mailto:40acreslcs@gmail.com)).

#### SAMBUSAS IN THE COMMUNITY ROOM AFTER WORSHIP

Sambusas from a local restaurant will be for sale (sliding scale of \$2-10) in the Community.



#### MIDWINTER CELEBRATION IN LONGFELLOW — DECEMBER 21

Longfellow Rising invites the community to a Midwinter Celebration on Sunday, December 21, from 3:30–5:30 p.m. 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](mailto:longfellowrising@gmail.com) or 612-487-8109.

#### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21, 4:00 P.M.

##### CHRIST BE OUR LIGHT: CHANTING THE PSALMS IN HOPE

We will have our final meeting on Sunday, December 21, at 4:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. On that evening we will be chanting Psalms 141-150, thus completing what we set out to do last July 16: to sing our way through the entire Psalter. What a journey it has been, and I thank everyone who has taken part in this amazing project! ~ Ann Schrooten

#### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24—OFFICE CLOSURES AT NOON

The church office will close at noon on Wednesday so we can prepare for the Christmas Eve worship services.

#### 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.

#### GAME NIGHT FUN!

A handful of members from Mother St. James AME congregation and a dozen members of Holy Trinity spent a jolly evening together Saturday, Dec. 6. We ate pizza, drank soft drinks, and laughed and played together for a couple of delightful hours. Co-sponsored by Holy Trinity's Nurturing and Racial Justice committees and Mother St. James, these game nights will be announced again in 2026.





## SAVE THE DATE

### TUESDAY, JANUARY 6—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 1:30 p.m. All are welcome to join in for needlework and conversation. For more information, contact Liz Blood.

### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7 — WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEALS, MUSIC, AND GYM TIME RETURN

Beginning Wednesday, January 7, our full Wednesday evening rhythm resumes with community meals, youth and adult music ensembles, and open gym time. All are warmly invited!

#### *Wednesday Evening Meal*

Volunteers, supported by staff, will offer a community meal in the Lunchroom from 5:00–6:00 p.m. each Wednesday that ensembles are in session. This shared meal has become a meaningful time to build relationships, and everyone is welcome—whether or not you or your loved ones participate in music-making.

#### *Music Ensembles (rehearse most weeks during the school year):*

- Children's Choir (K–5th grade): 5:45–6:45 p.m. Focuses on basic music and singing skills and leadership in worship; sings every 4–5 weeks.
- Jubilation Handbells (6th–12th grade): 5:45–6:30 p.m. Youth handbell ensemble; plays in worship 4–5 times per year.
- Gloria Ringers (Adults): 6:00–7:30 p.m. Adult handbell ensemble; plays in worship every 6–7 weeks.
- Cantate (6th–12th grade choir): 6:45–7:30 p.m. Sings in worship every 6–7 weeks.

Sign up in the Community Room, or email Phil for vocal choirs or Logan for handbell ensembles. For more information about choral, instrumental, or solo opportunities, talk with Cantor Phil.

#### *Open Gym Time*

Following rehearsals, open gym time with adult supervision will be available from 6:30–8:00 p.m. Parents and guardians are encouraged to have children participate in youth ensembles—and to consider joining a bell choir themselves!

Some parents choose to head to Arbeiter Brewing for fellowship (with beer and NA options) during the evening—feel free to join in.

Come for the meal, stay for the music, enjoy the gym, and be part of this life-giving midweek community!

### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7—YOUNG ADULT MONTHLY SOCIAL

Young adults are invited to join the community meal on the first Wednesday of each month from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the church building. Following the meal, the group will walk to Arbeiter Brewing for fellowship and fun! For further information, please reach out to Dave Herrera for more information.

### 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.

## ADDITIONAL NOTES

### MAKE YOUR YEAR-END GIFTS

We invite you to make your final contributions for the current fiscal year at this time. Please note: the office will be closed on December 31. If you are dropping off a donation for 2025, it needs to be received on or before Tuesday, December 30. Thank you 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>

### 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!

## WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21, 10:00 AM

Preacher	Doug Mork (he/him)
Presiding Minister	Ingrid Rasmussen (she/her)
Cantor	Caren Hiatt (she/her)
Altar Guild	Libby Olstad (she/her), Keith Olstad (he/him)
Crucifer	
Assisting Minister	Tom Skold (he/him)
Communion	Katy Benson (she/her), Linda Berglin (she/her ), Carol Masters (she/her)
Ushers	Chris Amundson (he/him), Julie Cahoy (she/her), Tom Cahoy (he/him)
Coffee Servers	Connie Adam (she/her)
Counters	Annie Hines (she/her) )
Closer	Roberta Shaw (she/her)
Video Operator	Jan Mehlhoff (she/her)

**THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HELPED WITH WEDNESDAY EVENING AVENT SOUP SUPPERS AND PRAYER SERVICES**  
 Thank you to all who helped pick up bread, set up, make soup and mac & cheese, clean up, livestream, usher and all other things that created a warm and welcoming environment during this time. We nourished many bodies and souls. We even had to double the amount of mac & cheese!

## PARISH EVENTS DECEMBER 21-27, 2025

Sunday, December 21	9:00 AM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM 4:00 PM	Intergenerational Cookie Decorating Worship Service of Holy Communion Swahili Service Chanting of the Psalms
Monday, December 22	6:30-8:00 PM	Adult Choir Rehearsal (in the sanctuary)
Wednesday, December 24 <i>Christmas Eve</i>	4:00 PM 9:00 PM	Family-friendly Worship Service Worship Service led by Adult Choir
Thursday, December 25 <i>Christmas Day</i>		Building Closed
Friday, December 26		Building Closed

### 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](#).





## LONGFELLOW SCHOOL HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

Thank you to all who contributed to the Longfellow school holiday celebrations and brightened the holidays for these Longfellow families.

