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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.

Written for the 2026 Holy Trinity Annual Report

A few days ago, on my way to work, along the north side of the neighborhood middle school, I found myself in the middle of an ICE convoy. (It wasn't the first or last time this has happened in 2026.) It was drop-off time. Kids. Backpacks. Parents waving. And then, right there, federal vehicles filled to the brim with masked men.

So I started to beep my horn. I thought of Renée Good, who had been killed just a couple of days earlier. I took a deep breath and thought—no way, not here with our kids. As soon as I started honking, an SUV—one of the federal vehicles that had been behind me—pulled around and boxed me in so I couldn't move, while another vehicle, filled with masked, armed men, sped away.

It was Wednesday. On a regular city street. At eight-something in the morning. What?

It's hard for me these days to determine how we should operate—what portions of life before we should retain because they keep us grounded, and what portions of our life together we should relinquish because these aren't normal times, and we shouldn't act as though we aren't experiencing the siege of fascism. This is something we talk about regularly as a staff and as a Church Council.

These days, we try to hold together our homebound visits with our detention visits. We try to hold together our regular Sunday School preparation with the cries of kiddos who are losing their parents to unlawful arrests. We try to hold together our spiritual care with our sit-ins. We try to hold together worship that comforts—a soft place to land—with worship that challenges us to follow the cross, regardless of where that leads us. It's difficult discernment.

Unfortunately, it's not entirely new. As a community rooted at the corner of Lake and Minnehaha, we've lived through significant communal crises before. Some of us have lived through authoritarianism before in our countries of origin, too. And some of us know all too well that our immigration policies have been punitive far longer than we've had masked men with two weeks of training and semi-automatic weapons in hand running around our streets.

(continued on next page)

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY READINGS

*Isaiah 9:1-4; Psalm 27:1, 4-9;
1 Corinthians 1:10-18; Matthew 4:12-23*

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.

January 25 "Palm Sunday Path"

Join Pastor Doug and Palm Sunday Path leaders in a conversation about this major initiative to resist authoritarianism. We'll talk about the three phases of the work:

- The Palm Sunday afternoon march by thousands of Christians in MN (including you, we hope!) and hundreds of thousands across the country
- Sustained actions on Medicaid Cuts, SNAP Benefit Cuts and Immigration
- A mass action in Washington, DC, on July 4th

February 1 "Let's Repeal Minnesota's Anti-Boycott Law"

MN BDS Community Presenters

Rev. John Darlington and Sanna Towns

The MN BDS Community (Boycott, Sanctions, Divestment) has worked with fellow organizations and faith communities to address Israel's oppressive occupation of Palestine and apartheid against Palestinians. A particular grievance of our community is the MN Legislature's passage of a 2017 law restricting vendors in contracting with the state, specifically disallowing boycotts of Israel. What is at stake? Our First Amendment rights of freedom of speech, freedom of protest! Attend the Adult Forum, learn about the two Repeal bills in the Senate and the House, and find out how you might contribute to this effort.

~ 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 **Merlin Wells; Wilson Murray; Dorothy Kelly; Nikki Randolph-Martinez; Carol Kelly; Mary Petersen; Tre Teller's mom Jill; Tina and Neela; Rick Lathrop; Karen Batdorf's sister Marie; Mike Kelly; Josie Tober; Stella Townsend; Angel Blanco**.

P A R I S H I N F O R M A T I O N

We all know that despair is a privilege we cannot afford.

So we tell the truth. As people of faith, we tell stories—bible stories, community stories, painful stories, meaningful stories, unfinished stories. Because our stories are what keep pointing us toward the way of Christ—a way of grace and mercy and strength and resilience and beauty and joy.

I am holding on for dear life to the promise that faith gives us what we need—manna for today, manna for tomorrow. I am trusting that abundant life is stronger than anything or anyone that can box us in. I am clinging to the hope that mercy will beat those ARs into plowshares. And I am praying that grace will find us when we don't get it right—because there is no “right” in this time, only our most faithful next step taken with our neighbors.

Lately, I have been thinking about the story Trappist monk and mystic Thomas Merton tells about being in Louisville, at the corner of Fourth and Walnut. He writes: “I was suddenly overwhelmed with the realization that I loved all these people, that they were mine and I theirs, that we could not be alien to one another even though we were total strangers. It was like waking from a dream of separateness, of spurious self-isolation in a special world...There is no way of telling people that they are all walking around shining like the sun.” That is how I feel when I look at our community right now. Suffering as we may be, we are shining like the sun—empowered by the Holy Spirit, unwilling to relinquish our dreams.

Dear ones, we follow a God who is more interested in tending our dreams than in fueling our despair. And that God’s love is stronger than anything that fear can place at our doorsteps in 2026.

With compassion,



THIS WEEK

ANNUAL MEETING SUNDAY, JANUARY 25, 11:00 A.M.

Following the 10:00 a.m. service, all are invited to the gym for a free meal and the annual congregational meeting, as we celebrate the 122nd year of God’s ministry through Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. We will review committee goals, elect new council members, and approve the 2026 budget. The annual meeting is also an opportunity for us to check on our progress made toward congregational goals.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 24—RING OUT PRESENTS, “RING TRUE!”

Ring Out, the Twin Cities LGBTQIA+ handbell ensemble, founded and directed by Logan Olson will present a concert celebrating queer identity and the impact of affirming communities at 7:00 p.m. in Sundin Music Hall at Hamline University, St. Paul. Tickets are available online (ringoutmn.org) or at the door.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 25—RING OUT PRESENTS, “RING TRUE!”

Ring Out, the Twin Cities LGBTQIA+ handbell ensemble, founded and directed by Logan Olson will present a concert celebrating queer identity and the impact of affirming communities at 2:30 p.m. in Sundin Music Hall at Hamline University, St. Paul. Tickets are available online (ringoutmn.org) or at the door. This concert will also be live streamed on [Ring Out's Youtube channel](#).

TUESDAY, JANUARY 27—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).

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28—MEAL, OPEN GYM AND ENSEMBLE REHEARSALS

- Community Meal (5:00-6:00 p.m. in the lunchroom)
- Supervised open gym (6:30-8:00 p.m.)
- Jubilation rehearsal (5:45-6:30 p.m.)
- Children’s Choir rehearsal (5:45-6:45 p.m.)
- Gloria Ringers rehearsal (6:30-8:30 p.m.)

Whether or not you’re involved in music-making, the weekly meal and gym time are open to all and have become a beloved part of our shared life together. You’re invited to come enjoy good food, connect with others, and simply be part of the community. Some parents also gather at Arbeiter Brewing during this time for conversation and connection over a beer or non-alcoholic drink. You’re welcome to join there too! For more information on ensemble and solo opportunities, please reach out to Cantor Phil Radtke.

WEDNESDAY EVENING MEAL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

If you would like to help provide a Wednesday evening meal for children and youth (and parents) attending choir and bell rehearsals, and supervised play time, please sign up in the Community Room. You can reach out to Cantor Phil or Kathy for more information. We will reach out to you with details before your assigned date.

THURSDAYS, JANUARY 29, FEBRUARY 12 AND 26—

EXPLORE SPIRITUAL PRACTICES – WINTER SMALL GROUP

Are you looking to deepen or refresh your spiritual life this winter? Join us for a four-week small group exploring a variety of spiritual practices—simple, grounding ways to connect more fully with God in everyday life.

Led by Grace Basler and Julie Cahoy, this group will meet every other Thursday in January and February. Meeting Dates: January 15, January 29, February 12, February 26.

Each session will include time for reflection, sharing, and trying out a different practice together. Whether you’re new to spiritual practices or hoping to grow, all are welcome.

SAVE THE DATE

FEBRUARY 2026: BOOK GROUP WITH PASTOR INGRID

This season, our whole congregation is invited into a transformative book study on *The Power of Bridging: How to Build a World Where We All Belong* by John A. Powell. Drawing from years of research and community practice, Powell offers a hopeful, practical vision for healing divides and nurturing belonging in a fragmented world. Together, we'll explore what it means to "bridge" across differences and try simple, meaningful actions that strengthen connection in our daily lives.

Across the region, thousands of people have already joined this growing movement through the Bush Foundation's book club, and we're excited to add our voices to the conversation. Whether you're eager to deepen relationships, strengthen our communal life, or practice new ways of engaging across difference, this study will offer inspiration and tools for the journey. We have 250 free copies of this book from the Bush Foundation; please join us! Books are included in the packets you can pick up in the Community Room that include the seasonal calendar and giving statements. Packets not picked up by Sunday, January 25 will be mailed.

YOUTH ADULT MONTHLY SOCIAL WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4

Young adults are invited to join the community meal on the first Wednesday of each month from 5:00-6:00 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. This month, the brewer will talk with us about a collaboration we are going to launch.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8

We are holding the annual pancake breakfast from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. this day. Confirmation students and their families will host the event. This will be a fundraiser for youth service/learning/fun trips. Tickets are \$10 and will be on sale at the Annual Meeting, as well as at the door on the day of the event. Please consider volunteering!

FAMILY RETREAT AT HUDSON YMCA IN HUDSON, WISCONSIN, FRIDAY-SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13-15

Join us for a weekend of rest, renewal, and family-friendly fun with church members of all ages!

Sign up in the Community Room by January 28. The cost is \$50 per person, but there are scholarships available! Simply chat with Pr. Doug. You will be expected to drive yourselves, but carpooling can be arranged!

AARP TAX AIDE—FEBRUARY 2-APRIL 8

AARP Tax Aide will again be available at Holy Trinity to provide assistance with 2025 tax preparation for seniors and low-income taxpayers. Tax assistance is available at Holy Trinity on Mondays and Wednesdays beginning Monday February 2, 2025, and running until Wednesday, April 8. The procedures necessary to receive tax assistance will be the same as those used in 2025. The steps to take are described below. You will need an appointment to have your tax documents prepared at Holy Trinity. Call **612-567-2368** between the hours of **9:00-11:00 a.m. or 1:00-3:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday**. Please have your 2024 tax return available.

SILENT RETREAT WITH PASTOR INGRID AT PACEM IN TERRIS THURSDAY-SATURDAY, MAY 14-16

(REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS MARCH 14)

Cost: \$280 (includes a basket of breads, cheese, and goodies to eat in your hermitage)

Silent retreats—extended periods of quiet, prayer, and reflection—are growing rapidly across the U.S. as people seek relief from constant connectivity and the pressures of daily life. In response to this deep spiritual hunger, we have reserved ten hermitages at Pacem in Terris, a serene retreat center located one hour north of Holy Trinity. Pacem in Terris is designed for those longing to rest, listen, and simply be. Participants will experience gentle structure for prayer, sitting or walking meditation, journaling, and unhurried rest. Free from small talk, eye contact, and digital interruption, retreatants often discover moments of unexpected grace. We have 8 rustic outdoor hermitages and 2 indoor accessible hermitages available. To participate, participants need to arrive by 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 14. Space is limited. Come rest in the quiet and renew your spirit. Sign up in the Community Room.

REGISTRATION FOR CAMP WAPO SUMMER CAMP OPEN

Camp Wapo Summer Camp registration opens January 15. Lake Wapogasset Lutheran Bible Camp (Camp Wapo) is an ELCA-affiliated camp in Wisconsin that has provided a positive camp experience for many Holy Trinity kids. As with most partner organizations, Holy Trinity does not design the curriculum or program, and elements may not always perfectly align with all of Holy Trinity's theological commitments.

Holy Trinity has reserved guaranteed spots for January 15–February 15. After February 16, any unused spots will be released to the waitlist and general public. Reserved weeks and spots:

- Wapo Youth (completed grades 4–9): August 2–7, 2026 (8 spots)
- Wapo Seeds (completed grades 1–3): August 7–9, 2026 (5 spots)

To register for the correct week and program, please use our church-specific registration link (active January 15): <http://lwlbc.com/holytrinity-mps>

New this year, Camp Wapo is piloting an optional all-gender housing option for campers in the same age group. Families who choose this option will have their camper placed in a cabin with peers of the same grade grouping, regardless of gender. Traditional boys' and girls' cabins will remain available. All-gender housing is opt-in only and must be selected during registration.

Questions? Contact Katie Schroeder.

DONATING VIA VENMO NOW AVAILABLE ON HT WEBSITE

With all the response to ICE invading Minneapolis, we've had lots of request for donating through Venmo. We've now added a Venmo link to the donation page on our website.

Donate By Credit Card

Make a quick and simple donation online.



Donate From Bank Account

Make one-time or recurring donations from your bank.



Or donate with Venmo: <https://venmo.com/holytrinitymps>

P A R I S H I N F O R M A T I O N

FAITH IN ACTION

A group of clergy gathered at Holy Trinity this morning in preparation for ICE actions today. While the adults were hitting the streets outside, a group of young people were in the youth library making post cards and calling legislators. This is love, this is community, this is faith in action.



Other duties as assigned.... Just another day in the life of a Holy Trinity Pastor.



WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS FOR SUNDAY, JANUARY 25, 10:00 AM

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Preacher | Ingrid Rasmussen (she/her) |
| Presiding Minister | Doug Mork (he/him) |
| Altar Guild | Carol Berg (she/her), David Berg (he/him) |
| Crucifer | Tre Tellor (he/they) |
| Assisting Minister | |
| Communion | Carol Masters (she/her), Karen Kunze (she/her), Margaret Kolden (she/her), Sean Gosiewski (he/him) |
| Ushers | Steve Murray (he/him), Frances (she/her), Robin (he/him), and Jeff (he/him) Olsen Biebighauser |
| Coffee Servers | Annual Meeting in the Gym |
| Counters | John Sulzbach (he/him) |
| Closer | Bob Hulteen (he/him) |
| Video Operator | Aaron Hanson (he/him), Amy Hanson (she/her) |

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION SUNDAY, MARCH 1

We invite interested persons to consider membership in this congregation. The orientation will be held from 9:00-10:00 a.m. in the Bartsch room. Breakfast will be served. There are no prerequisites; all are welcome. Please speak with Pastor Ingrid if you intend to come.

PARISH EVENTS JANUARY 25-FEBRUARY 1, 2026

| | | |
|-----------------------|---|--|
| Sunday, January 25 | 8:30 AM 9:00 AM 9:00 AM 10:00 AM 11:00 PM 12:00 PM | Family Coffee Hour (in the Community Room) Adult Forum Youth Education Worship Service of Holy Communion Annual Meeting Swahili Service |
| Monday, January 26 | 6:30-8:00 PM | Adult Choir Rehearsal |
| Tuesday, January 27 | 11:00 AM | Worship Readings Discussion |
| Wednesday, January 28 | 5:00 PM 5:45-6:45 PM 5:45-6:30 PM 6:30-8:00 PM 6:30-8:00 PM | Choir Families Meal Children's Choir Jubilation Youth Handbell Ensemble Gloria Ringers Supervised Gym Time |
| Thursday, January 29 | 7:00 PM | Spiritual Practices |

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](#).

