



On 28th Avenue between Lake and 31st Streets Minneapolis, MN 55406 • 612-729-8358 • office@htlcmpls.org • www.htlcmpls.org
WORSHIP SERVICES: 8:45 and 11:00 am • CHURCH SCHOOL: 9:45 am • Jay Carlson and Ingrid Rasmussen, Pastors

MUST LENT BE SAD? YES AND NO

We have been having a lot of conversation here at Holy Trinity about whether or not Lent must be sad. One young Sunday School student pointed out that spring is a happy time; why do we have to be so sad at church? I think that is an excellent question. As I wrote in last week's newsletter, Lent can be a "greening" season in our spiritual lives as well as in the natural environment. It may be a joyful time to become more aware of God's renewing grace.

Lent does not require us to be sad, but at the same time this season gives us permission to weep when it is necessary. And weeping, from time to time, is both necessary and life-giving. In the comments printed below, Joan Chittister explains why this is true.

On this planet, psychic numbing has been raised to high art. This people avoids pain and misery, in others as well as in themselves, at all costs. This is not a people who braves grief in the face and stares it down. No, this people dedicates itself to the elimination of pain—its own—and the aversion of pain—everyone else's. But grief comes nevertheless.

Tears fall despite the fact that we resist them so strongly. Weeping and wailing are heard everywhere in the land of milk and honey—from the unemployed and underemployed who want basics they can't have; from the sick and lonely who feel they have nothing to live for at all; from the beaten and the powerless whose lives are faceless and unrecognized; from the privileged and well-to-do who have it all and still have nothing that really satisfies.

Unfortunately, few of us see our weeping as spiritual gift or a matter of divine design. But we are wrong. Weeping is very holy and life-giving. It sounds the alarm for a society and wizens the soul of the individual. If we do not weep on the personal level, we shall never understand humanity around us. If we do not weep on the public level, we are less than human ourselves.

If we do not allow ourselves to face and feel pain, we run the risk of entombing ourselves in a plastic bubble where our lies about life shrink our hearts and limit our vision. It is not healthy, for instance, to say that massive poverty is sad but "normal." It is not right to say that sexism is unfortunate, but "necessary." It is not human to say that war is miserable but "essential." It is not healthy to insist that our deep hurts and cutting disappointments and appalling losses and great personal mistakes do not exist. On the contrary. To weep tears of frustration about them may be to take our first real steps toward honesty, toward mental health, toward a life that is worth living.

Weeping, in fact, may be the best indicator we have of what life is really all about for us. It may be only when we weep that we can come to know best either ourselves or our worlds. What we weep for measures what we are. What we weep over indicates what others may expect of us in life.

— Joan Chittister, from *For Everything a Season*

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are given a new birth as daughters and sons of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.



LESSONS

Genesis 12:1-4a

Psalm 121

Romans 4: 1-5, 13-17

John 3: 1-17

SUNDAY ADULT FORUM

10:00 am — In the library

MARCH 16

**"Oil extraction and its impact on persons and the climate"
Peace with Justice Committee**

Paul Blackburn, MN350's lawyer in contesting Minnesota's tar sands pipeline at the Public Utilities Commission, will present on extreme oil extraction and its impact on Minnesotans and the climate. His background includes 25 years of working with citizens organizing around environmental issues, such as the Keystone XL pipeline.

MARCH 23

**"Loss of Dreams"
Ted Bouman**

Ted Bouman teaches courses and offers workshops that focus on change and transition in families, organizations, and communities. He is the author of a booklet titled "Loss of Dreams: A Special Kind of Grief," which will form the basis for his forum presentation.

LENTEN SOUP SUPPER AND WORSHIP SERVICE

Wednesdays during Lent there will be a soup supper at 5:30 p.m. followed by evening prayer service at 7:00 p.m. Lenten services start on March 5, Ash Wednesday. We need volunteers to make soup, set up, and clean up. Sign up in the Community Room.

EASTER LILLIES AND TULIPS

If you'd like to order Easter flowers for the altar area, please call the church office. The cost is \$11.

MARCH FOODSHARE CAMPAIGN IS HERE

Fight hunger in Minnesota! Bring your donations of cash or nonperishable food items to Holy Trinity any time before Palm Sunday, April 13. There is a collection basket in the Community Room.

CONCERNING PEOPLE

Please pray for **Randy Nelson**, who is hospitalized this week.

PARISH INFORMATION

WILD GOOD FESTIVAL EMAIL LIST

If you wish to receive email about the upcoming Wild Goose Festival as well as plans for traveling from Minneapolis to North Carolina, please sign the list in the Community Room.

PRAYER SHALL KNITTERS

This congregation gives prayer shawls to members and friends who are hospitalized, preparing for surgery, or experiencing other difficulties. Prayer shawls are tangible means of God's grace. They provide warmth and comfort, reminding recipients of the community that surrounds them. If you are interested in making prayer shawls (either on your own time or in a group), please contact Liz Blood (liz.bill.blood@gmail.com) or Kathy Ohler (katharinaohler@gmail.com). They have simple patterns and materials for you to use.

"MARCH TO ENROLL" EVENT AT HOLY TRINITY

Bruce Martens, a Certified MNSure Navigator for Minnesota Recovery Connection and Holy Trinity member will be available throughout the month to answer questions and assist with enrollment. Help with Medical Assistance, MinnesotaCare and private plan enrollment will be offered. For more information about this enrollment event, or to schedule an enrollment appointment, contact the Holy Trinity office or Bruce directly.

HOLY TRINITY THEATRE CIRCLE PRESENTS OUR TOWN

This delightful drama by Thornton Wilder is about the folks in Grover's Corner, New Hampshire. Wilder encourages us to think about our lives in new ways — both the common and the unique. We invite you to join us! March 20, 21, and 22 at 7:00 p.m., and March 23 at 4:00 p.m. in the Gym/Theater. Admission is free, but donations are welcomed and appreciated.

LABYRINTH WALK

The labyrinth will be available in the 1st floor room across from the Bartsch Room 5:00-8:00 p.m. on Wednesdays during lent. Volunteers will be available to guide new users.

BABYSITTING RESOURCE

Are you a babysitter (or know someone who is)? Holy Trinity is putting together a directory of young people who are interested in occasionally caring for children of Holy Trinity families. Contact Pastor Jay for more information.

Financial Report	March 9	Year to Date
Budget Requirements	13,591.35	135,913.46
Budget Receipts	14,783.08	132,862.58
Food Shelf	-	20.00
World Hunger	-	242.00
Boiler Donations	260.00	15,382.50
African Pastor's endowment	50.00	665.00

PARISH EVENTS March 16-22, 2014

Sunday	8:45, 11 am	Worship Services with Holy Communion
	9:30 am	Confirmation, 9:45 am Sunday School
	10:00 am	Adult Forum
	12:30 pm	HTTC Rehearsal, <i>Our Town</i>
	2:00 pm	Swahili Service
Monday	10:00 am	Yoga for Seniors
	11 - 2:30 pm	AARP Tax Aide
	6:00 pm	Executive Committee
	6:30 pm	HTTC Rehearsal, <i>Our Town</i>
Tuesday	7:00 pm	Church Council
	10:30 am	Healthy Seniors
	11 - 2:30 pm	AARP Tax Aide
	3:30 - 5:30 pm	Open Gym
Wednesday	6:30 pm	HTTC Rehearsal, <i>Our Town</i>
	10:00 am	Lectionary Text Study
	4-6:00 pm	Fare for All Express
	5- 8:00 pm	Labyrinth
	5:30 pm	Lenten Soup Supper
	6:00 pm	Children's Choir, 6:30 pm Cantate!
	6:30 pm	HTTC Rehearsal, <i>Our Town</i>
Thursday	7:00 pm	Evening Prayer Service, 7:45 pm Adult Choir
	7:00 pm	<i>Our Town</i> OPENING NIGHT
Friday	10:00 am	Yoga for Seniors
	7:00 pm	<i>Our Town</i>
Saturday	7:00 pm	<i>Our Town</i>

Boiler Fund by Paul/Lois Eid, Dick/Betty Pittlekow, Bob/Helen Norheim.

Special Gift in memory of June Englund by Gary/Carol Englund

African Pastors Fund by Bud Dixen.

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS March 16, 2013

	8:45 AM	11:00 AM
	Jay Carlson	Preacher Jay Carlson
	Ingrid Rasmussen	Presiding Minister Ingrid Rasmussen
	Danya/Anton Werth	Acolytes Oskar Jensen, Linnea Krig
	David Kohlstedt	Assisting Minister Mary Lindell
	Joyce Peterson, Lisa Martens, Rick Liedholm,	Communion Kari Kleven, Cliff Brown, Jeff Olsen Biebighauser
	David/Carol Berg	Altar Guild Allene Qualheim, Linda Woytasek Lynda/Dennis Nordholm, M Olsen Biebighauser, Ron Peterson
	Bob/Bev Peschiutta, DeWayne Townsend	Ushers Jeff Weiss, Gretchen Lund
		Nursery Jeff Weiss, Gretchen Lund
	Karen Fantauzza	Coffee Servers David/Nancy Moe
	Dennis Nordholm, Donna Heyer	Counters John Sulzbach, Wayne Vetter
		Closer Deb Sodt

Office phone: 612-729-8358
Jay Carlson and Ingrid Rasmussen, Pastors