



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

### A WILDERNESS PROPHET

Who was John the Baptizer? Why does he occupy such an important place in our Advent worship?

For one, he was a prophet. That does not mean that he could predict the future, exactly, but that he was insightful and courageous enough to tell the truth about the world as it was, even to those in power, even when it involved risk. In that way, he was like a lot of other messengers of God, the other prophets who had come before him. He even apparently shared certain physical traits with the greatest prophet of all, Elijah, who is described in 2 Kings as “a hairy man with a leather belt around his waist.”

It is important that John is identified so strongly with Elijah. Another prophet, Malachi, said that Elijah would return before the messianic era when everything would be put to rights again. The Gospel writer Mark clearly wants us to remember that promise.

But to me, the significance of John is more than just his fulfilling a prophesy. To me, John is more than just another truth-teller, though he certainly was that. John also provided a space where people could share truths with one another, and with themselves. He called people—all of Judea, we’re told—to the river for a baptism of repentance. He invited them to reflect on the ways that they themselves had neglected the reign of God and to commit themselves to another way. He gave them a place to admit that they still needed God, that they couldn’t manage things all on their own, no matter how hard they tried.

The wilderness is a good place to acknowledge one’s vulnerability. Without the luxuries of civilization, one must eat what is available—locusts and honey, for example. One finds shelter in caves and bathes at the river banks. In the wilderness we might acknowledge just how dependent we are on our God, the One who creates and sustains, who gives life and renews every living thing.

Belden Lane writes:

*The desert as metaphor is that uncharted terrain beyond the edges of the seemingly secure and structured world in which we take such confidence, a world of affluence and order we cannot imagine ever ending. Yet it does. And at the point where the world begins to crack, where brokenness and disorientation suddenly overtake us, there we step into the wide, silent plains of a desert we had never known existed.*

Most of us have some experience with our world beginning to crack and the disorientation that follows. When we’ve lost something or someone we love...when we’ve seen others hurt and perhaps even recognized our part in it...when we come to terms with our own powerlessness...then we step into the silent plains of a wilderness we perhaps never knew existed.

But when we arrive, we find that John is already there, preparing the way. He invites us to come, courageously, into the truth-telling vulnerability of wilderness. And there we find that the wilderness is not only an end to something but also a beginning. In the wilderness, we are on equal footing with one another and all of God’s beloved creatures. In the wilderness, we are welcomed into the promise of new life.

—Pastor Jay Carlson

### CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

If you’d like to buy a poinsettia for the altar area at Christmas, please call the church office. \$14 each.

### THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*Among all the psalms and canticles in the Bible, few have captured the imaginations of poets and composers as much as the Magnificat, Mary’s song of praise at the news she will bear God’s son. The joy of God’s mercy is knit tightly to issues of social justice and covenant relationships, and this Sunday—with the help of both adult choirs—we will explore some of the Magnificat themes with scripture, poetry, hymns and anthems.*



### LESSONS

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11  
Luke 1

### ADULT FORUM

10:00 am – In the library

### DECEMBER 14 “LIGHT AND DARKNESS”

Pastor Jay Carlson and Shelley Grimes

In the northern hemisphere the season of Advent coincides with a season of diminishing daylight. Partly due to our environment and partly due to the biblical witness, the imagery of light and darkness becomes central during the start of the church year. Join Pastor Jay and Shelley as they explore darkness, not as something to be feared, but as the beginning of mysterious and wonderful new life.

### DECEMBER 21 “QUEST FOR THE LIVING GOD”

Pastor Ingrid Rasmussen

Where did your images of God originate? Did your concept of God come to you through iconography (visual images), liturgy (worship form), and hymnody (songs)? Or was your concept of God shaped by your third grade Sunday School workbook, the bookmark in your grandmother’s Bible, and the picture that hung above your neighbor’s nightstand? Through a variety of sources, all of us learned to attach images to God. Using Elizabeth Johnson’s *Quest for the Living God*, we’ll look at a few images that might expand our understanding. (Participants need not read the book prior to the session.)

**The Sunday School children will present “How Far Is It to Bethlehem?” on Sunday, December 21, at the 11:00 service.**

### FAITH AT HOME DEVOTION

*Advent, Week Three*—Read Luke 1:46-55

1. What are your favorite words in the reading—circle or highlight them and share them out loud.
2. What does it mean to magnify something?
3. How can we “magnify” God?
4. What are some of the surprising things that Jesus is going to do?

*Prayer:* Our prayer tonight is for those who are hungry and have no place to live or sleep - remember when Jesus was born...he had no place to sleep.

# PARISH INFORMATION

## JULBORD THANKS

Thank you to all the Holy Trinity members who cooked, baked, decorated, served, and cleaned up last week in order to provide such a fun community event. Thanks especially to Sarah Wieben and Sue Roberts for their leadership.

## DEMONSTRATE YOUR THANKFULNESS THIS SEASON

Every year Holy Trinity anticipates and relies on a year-end increase in contributions that help support the work of the church. This holiday season, please consider making an additional contribution to Holy Trinity or to our special appeals, Exodus Lending and World Hunger. To donate online, visit the church website at [htlcmpls.org](http://htlcmpls.org) and locate the link to the giving page

## BUILDING PROJECT WORKING GROUP UPDATE

It seems fitting that as our faith community listens to the prophets in these days of Advent, that the working group is also in the process of listening. We have honed our original list of more than 30 architectural firms down to 6 firms with whom to walk through the building and listen to the wisdom and perspectives each offers. These firms were chosen for having congregational experience and expertise pertinent to our congregation's plans and mission. Here's a bit of what we are hearing:

- Because all first floor and second floor spaces are large and have high ceilings -- they are filled with possibilities.
- The below-grade space (inside the cul de sac) is a viable space for future staff offices.
- The proposed space has sufficient square footage to accommodate office space for our growing staff and needs.

Our listenings are helping us garner a better sense of which firms would best serve our congregation and therefore, we would have interest in interviewing. We anticipate that the initial walk throughs will be completed this week.

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

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Ingrid Rasmussen

PARISH EVENTS December 14-20, 2014		
Sunday	8:45 am	Worship Service with Holy Communion
	9:30 am	Confirmation
	9:45 am	Sunday School
	10:00 am	Adult Forum
	11:00 am	Worship Service with Holy Communion
Monday	2:00 pm	Swahili Service
	6:00 pm	Executive Committee
Tuesday	7:00 pm	Council
Tuesday	11:00 am	Text Study
Wednesday	5 - 8 pm	Labyrinth
	5:30 pm	Soup Supper
	6 - 7 pm	Youth Choirs
	7:00 pm	Advent Evening Prayer Service
Thursday	7:45 pm	Adult Choir
	8:00 am	Encore at Turtle Bread
Saturday	6:30 pm	Handbell rehearsal
	9:30-11:30 am	Sunday School Rehearsal

Special gift to Children's Choir in memory of Jane Aldrich's dad and Sara Jensen's mom by Andrea Hansen  
World Hunger by Eunice Lindberg Milbrath

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS DECEMBER 14, 2014		
8:45 AM		11:00 AM
David Krig	Crucifer	Anna Brelje
Lyle Steinfeldt, Mary Young	Communion	Libby/Keith Olstad
Shelley Grimes, Ann Neuendorf	Altar Guild	Libby/Keith Olstad
Bob Peschiutta, David Kohlstedt, John Goring	Ushers	Lynda/Dennis Nordholm, Deb Sodt, Jeff Olsen Biebighauser
David Broberg	Coffee Servers	Matt Kane/Liz Conway
Gerry Berglin, Dennis Nordholm	Counters	Scott Cole, John Sulzbach
	Closer	Vicki Mann
Financial Report	December 7	Year to date
Budget requirement	13,591.35	652,384.62
Budget receipts	17,192.19	624,341.23
Exodus Appeal	5.00	8,787.00
World Hunger	125.00	11,910.57
Food Shelf	-	200.00
Boiler Fund	15.00	25,607.50