



On 28th Avenue between Lake and 31<sup>st</sup> 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

## MARY'S SONG OF JOY

*Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.*

While many other biblical figures received a *call* from God to participate in God's work of liberation, we say that Mary received an *annunciation*, indicating that this was not something that was up for discussion. This makes me wonder: could she really have said no to Gabriel, to God? Does her answer of "let it be" indicate willingness or simply acceptance of the inevitable?

Her short reply does not give us much insight into what she was thinking or how she felt about being such a "favored" servant of God. We would be left with a lot of questions...if it hadn't been for Elizabeth. Mary made the journey to be with her relative Elizabeth, presumably to help her in her late in life pregnancy. And immediately upon greeting her, Elizabeth noticed something amazing in Mary. Elizabeth rejoiced, not just over the facts of the birth of a savior to come, but even more about Mary herself. She said, "blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." Blessed are you, Mary, for the way you are responding to what God is doing. Elizabeth reflects Mary's joy back to her, and Mary responds by singing her *magnificat*, a song of praise.

Perhaps one important function of Christian community is that our relationships with one another give us the opportunity to notice hope and faith and joy in each other. Sometimes we are an Elizabeth for others, when we can say, "you are so clearly blessed in the way you are responding to God's promises for you in your life." Sometimes we need an Elizabeth to show us our own joy. We sing our best praises when we're together.

The truth is, I believe, that none of us has any choice about God's promise to be present for us and to others through us. We too are chosen to bring life and hope into the world, unlikely as we may feel ourselves to be. We can choose, I suppose, to either fight it or celebrate it. We can go about our lives as if it doesn't matter, or we can let that promise inspire a joy that touches everything we do.

The truth is, I believe, that the world needs such joy now as much as 2,000 years ago, as much as ever. Some people may look at our celebrations this week and think that we are crazy for being filled with joy. Just look at the problems and brokenness in the world around us. But that's all the more reason to make our joy known. The world needs a liturgy of abundance as opposed to scarcity, a song of love in the face of fear, a confident trust that indeed all lives matter, a persistent hope that God is restoring creation. The world needs us, the church, to join Mary in singing her joyful *magnificat*.

And the truth is, I believe, that God gives us reason for this joy. God is with us.

There are many mysteries we will contemplate this week of Christmas. In the end, the purpose of the stories we retell to one another is not to teach us what happened centuries ago but to remind us of who God is for us. May our worship and our lives echo Mary's joy.

—Jay Carlson, Pastor

## FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

*In the psalm all the natural world praises God, including all humanity, male and female, young and old. The voices of Simeon and 84-year-old Anna join the chorus today, recognizing what God is doing in Jesus. Simeon's song is often sung after communion, for we have seen God's salvation in the assembled community and have held Jesus in our hands in the bread. Then, like the prophet Anna, we speak of Jesus to all who look for the healing of the world.*



### LESSONS

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

Psalm 148

Galatians 4:4-7

Luke 2:22-40

### ADULT FORUM

10:00 am

DECEMBER 28 "CHRISTMAS HYMN SING"  
David Sims

Please join us in the sanctuary for a joy-filled hymn sing.

JANUARY 4 "MY LIFE STORY, MY FAITH STORY"  
Allison Johnson

Our occasional series on how life story and faith story come together will be exemplified in this reflection by Holy Trinity member Allison Johnson.

### BROADWAY HIGH SCHOOL DONATIONS NEEDED

Broadway High School is looking for gently used children's clothes (18 months-3 yrs). They would also be thankful for more fruit snacks, small cookie packages, cracker packages with cheese or PB, popped popcorn, Rice Krispy bars, and juice boxes.

### TEXT STUDY

There will be no Lectionary Text Study on Tuesday, December 30. It will resume on January 6, 2015.

# PARISH INFORMATION

## ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Congregational Meeting will take place on Sunday, January 25, 2015, immediately following the 11:00 worship service. Lunch will be provided. All members are encouraged to attend.

## COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

The Congregational Council nominating committee is compiling a list of persons who may be interested in serving on the council in the next couple of years. It's a three-year term, and council meetings are at 7 p.m. on the third Monday of each month. If you would like more information or are interested in being considered, please contact the church office.

## RECONCILING IN CHRIST SERVICE AND COMMUNITY GATHERING

Join the ELCA Lutheran communities of the Twin Cities for the 2015 RIC worship service. Pastor Bradley Schmeling of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in St. Paul will preach. A simple supper will be served after worship. Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, 285 N. Dale Street, St Paul. Saturday, January 24, at 4:00 p.m.

## 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.

*Please remember: to receive credit on your 2014 contributions they must be received or postmarked by December 31 to be counted as a 2014 donation. Thank you!*

## CONFIRMATION RETREAT

The annual confirmation retreat will be held January 17-19 at Luther Park in Danbury, WI. Current confirmation students will receive a registration form in the mail soon.

## HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Holy Trinity office will be closed  
New Year's Day.



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

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PARISH EVENTS December 28-January 3, 2014		
Sunday	8:45 am	Worship Service with Holy Communion
	10:00 am	Adult Forum in the sanctuary
	11:00 am	Worship Service with Holy Communion
	2:00 pm	Swahili Service
Tuesday		No text study
Thursday		Building closed for New Year's Day
Saturday	3:00 pm	Handbell rehearsal

Special gift in memory of **Marion Englund** by Kathryn Nevers  
 Special gift in memory of **Ardis Wendling** by Judy Davison  
 World Hunger by Kathryn Nevers and Paul/Lois Eid  
 Exodus Lending by Paul/Lois Eid and in memory of **Ron Peterson** by  
 Margaret Peterson  
 Disaster Relief by Paul/Lois Eid

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS DECEMBER 28, 2014		
8:45 AM		11:00 AM
Danya Werth, Anton Werth	<b>Acolytes</b>	Mason Helmel, Ethan Townsend
Joyce Peterson	<b>Assisting Minister</b>	Lynda Nordholm
Josh Becker	<b>Crucifer</b>	Bob Hulteen
David Berg, Carol Berg	<b>Communion</b>	Gary Johnson, Katy Benson
Bev Peschiutta, Nancy Madich	<b>Altar Guild</b>	Betty/Dick Pittelkow
Bob/Bev Peschiutta, Chris Engen	<b>Ushers</b>	Mike Mann, Deb Sodt, Lee Kampinen, Alan Libra
	<b>Coffee Servers</b>	Katy Benson
Bob Peschiutta, Annie Hines	<b>Counters</b>	Wayne Vetter, Deb Helmel
	<b>Closer</b>	Cliff Brown

Financial Report	December 21	Year to date
Budget requirement	13,591.35	693,158.65
Budget receipts	14,611.63	651,388.78
Exodus Appeal	205.00	8,997.00
World Hunger	225.00	12,191.57
African Pastors' Fund		1,710.00
Disaster Relief	150.00	670.00
Boiler donations		25,632.50
Food shelf		200.00