



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 SERMONETTE EXCERPT FROM ADVENT I

(based on Mark 13:24-37)

This is apocalyptic literature. Apocalyptic means “the revelation of things previously unknown.” The darkening of the sun, the dimming of the moon, the falling stars, the shaking powers—all of it ushers us into the world where the writer of Mark’s gospel thought Jesus’ people ought to be living. It’s neither a world marked by sentimentality nor a world scarred by cynicism. Instead, it’s a world where communities gather to tell the truth about the hurt they both cause and endure. And it’s a world where, with the same breath, communities are filled with a hope that thankfully is beyond their control—a hope in the truth that the world belongs to God and everything in it can be changed.

Yes, this story is told for and by a people that have done a little living, who have stepped into the complexity of the human experience. It’s told for those of us who in the same week saw a grand jury decline to indict Darren Wilson in the death of Michael Brown and watched as the little Ferguson library received enough donations to hire a second full-time librarian. It’s told for those of us who saw Kobani, yet another Syrian border town, come under attack and witnessed Pope Francis’ public appearance and prayer in Istanbul’s Blue Mosque. This apocalyptic story is written for and by people who know in their bones that hurt and hope are frequently bound up together.

So often we hear Mark’s words “beware...keep alert...keep awake” as a fear-filled warning, as yet another command to an already tired people. But I don’t think they’re intended that way. Instead, I think they’re meant to be words of comfort for a people waiting for the world to turn, waiting for the community to tell the truth, waiting for divine hope to change their enemies, waiting for divine hope to change them. These are words of promise spoken to a people waiting for Christ to show up in a way they could recognize. Truly I tell you, the gospel writer proclaims, Christ will find a way into the center of this hurting and hopeful world. “The master is coming,” the late Henri Nouwen writes, “not tomorrow, but today, not next year, but this year, not after all our misery is passed, but in the middle of it, not in another place but right here where we are standing.”

This is our shared story as we begin again this Advent season: Christ comes right here where we are standing. Our symposium presenter, Nadia Bolz-Weber, writes “to experience the liturgical year is to sing the story, live the story, be re-oriented by the story and to do it all with others...all who did this before, all who do it now and all who will do it after we have gone. It is to have dual citizenship in the now and the not-yet. To celebrate the church year is to be sewn into the story of Jesus in a way that allows the fabric of our lives and our world to take on a holy texture.”

We pray that it may be so with us this year.

—Pastor Ingrid Rasmussen

SUNDAY SCHOOL ADVENT PRESENTATION

This year’s youth Advent presentation “How Far Is It to Bethlehem?” will take place on Sunday, December 21, at the 11:00 worship service. Come along as we follow the star in the east to find the child who will bring peace to the world, meeting several interesting characters along the way.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

John called people to repent, to clear the decks, to completely reorder their lives so that nothing would get in the way of the Lord’s coming. The reading from Isaiah gives the context for this radical call: the assurance of forgiveness that encourages us to repent; the promise that the coming one will be gentle with the little ones.

Isaiah calls us all to be heralds with John, to lift up our voices fearlessly and say, “See, your God is coming!”

We say it to one another in worship, in order to say it with our lives in a world in need of justice and peace.



LESSONS

Isaiah 40:1-11
Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13
2 Peter 3:8-15a
Mark 1:1-8

ADULT FORUM

10:00 am — In the library

DECEMBER 7 “INTERGENERATIONAL EVENT”

Jay Carlson, Ann Schrooten, Stephanie Sulzbach

The adult forum will join Sunday School and Confirmation students this week to celebrate the Advent season together. Everyone is invited to come to the Bartsch Room during the education hour for music and learning and some preparation for the program that will be held in worship on the 21st. This is a great opportunity for adults to get to know some of the Holy Trinity young people and vice-versa!

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.

FAITH AT HOME DEVOTION

Advent, Week Two—Read Luke 1:42-45

1. What are your favorite words in the reading - circle or highlight them and share them out loud.
2. What does Elizabeth know right away? How do you suppose she knows?
3. Who do you like to share your good news with?
4. Why is Elizabeth so JOYful?
5. Is God surprising you at all this season?

Prayer: Our prayer tonight is for JOY. Can you name some people you know who need JOY in their lives? As a family pray together.

PARISH INFORMATION

BROADWAY SCHOOL

We have been invited to Broadway High School (3017 E. 31st Street) on December 11 at 3:00 p.m. Administrators, teachers, and students will tell us more about their alternative education model and offer a tour of the facility. This meeting will also provide an opportunity for us to solidify scheduling for 2015. Sign up in the Community Room if you plan to attend.

DEMONSTRATE YOUR THANKFULNESS THIS SEASON

Every year around this time, Holy Trinity anticipates and relies on a seasonal increase in contributions. These contributions help support the work of the church now and throughout the year. This holiday season, please consider acknowledging the gifts you've been given by 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 and locate the link to the giving page.

BUILDING PROJECT WORKING GROUP UPDATE

We are grateful to those in this faith community who have reached out for one-to-one conversations with members of the building project working group over the last couple of weeks. Such conversations are an integral part of steering and shaping the work of this group. Each concern and question draws us together in better understanding the pulse of our congregation. When contemplating these conversations, I imagine that those who came together to build Holy Trinity English Lutheran Church in 1925 and those who responded in 1954 to broadening its mission with a five-floor expansion might have had the same questions and concerns. We may not know their process, but we do know their response. For we have this remarkable church building in which we gather with community, in which we find meaning around our life of faith. And so in 2014, we too have an opportunity to respond. How will our conversations guide us to better understand how this long-standing and long-serving building might best be utilized for sharing God's love and grace within this neighborhood?

-Lynda Nordholm, on behalf of the Building Project Working Group

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Ingrid Rasmussen

PARISH EVENTS December 7-13, 2014		
Sunday	8:45 am	Worship Service with Holy Communion
	10:00 am	Intergenerational Event with Sunday School, Adult Forum, and Confirmation/Bartsch Room
	11:00 am	Worship Service with Holy Communion
	12:00 pm	Handbell Rehearsal
	2:00 pm	Swahili Service
Monday	7:00 pm	Stewardship, Chris Ed. meets
Tuesday	11:00 am	Text Study
	6:30 - 8 pm	Writers' Circle
Wednesday	4-6 pm	Fare for All Express
	5 - 8 pm	Labyrinth
	5:30 pm	Soup Supper
	5:30 pm	Trinity Singers
	6 - 7 pm	Youth Choirs
	7:00 pm	Advent Evening Prayer Service
	7:45 pm	Adult Choir
Saturday	10 am-12 pm	Adult Choir

Boiler Fund in memory of husband Jim by Carole Schneiders
World Hunger by Gary Johnson

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS DECEMBER 7, 2014		
8:45 AM		11:00 AM
Grayson Wiczorek, Maggie Lund	Acolytes	Ethan Townsend, Kristen Townsend
David Kohlstedt	Assisting Minister	Scott Cole
Jeff Weiss	Crucifer	Jeff Olsen Biebighauser
Liz Rudrud, Brian Lenz	Communion	Linda/Phil Jury
Ann Neuendorf	Altar Guild	DeWayne/Melanie Townsend family
Bob/Bev Peschiutta, Chris Engen	Ushers	Kathy Ohler, Deb Sodt, Joshua Combs,
Annie Hines, Nicki Hines, Kathy Nelson	Coffee Servers	Peter/Amy Johnson
Donna Heyer	Counters	Wayne Vetter, Gary Johnson
	Closer	Dennis Nordholm
Financial Report	November 30	Year to date
Budget requirement	13,591.35	652,384.62
Budget receipts	13,980.50	607,149.04
Exodus Appeal	5.00	8,782.00
World Hunger	50.00	11,785.57
Food Shelf	-	200.00
Boiler Fund	25.00	25,592.50