



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

ANNA TAKES UP RESIDENCE

Sermon excerpt based on Luke 2:22-40

Some of you have heard me say that my hometown congregation had theatre seats in the sanctuary. Old, white, pleather seats that folded up and down. Because there were individual chairs, rather than full pews, people had an even greater tendency to take ownership of a particular seat. My father, for instance, sat on the aisle in the fourth row on the pulpit side. Margaret, the seasoned alto with a distinctive vibrato, sat directly behind him. Slim, a man who didn't live up to his name, sat stage right sixteen pews back. Deanie, the man who biked thirty-five miles to church (one-way) to hum the hymns with gusto, always found his place in the far back corner. I admit there was something comforting about the predictability of it all.

(We at Holy Trinity wouldn't know anything about that.)

Anna had taken up residence at the temple, we're told. After her husband died, she moved in. She spent her days and nights praying and fasting, always seated in the same spot. What she prayed for, no one really knew. Maybe she prayed for her children. Or the city of Jerusalem. Or for comfort. Or for all the beloved people she saw coming and going from the temple, offering sacrifices. The truth was that it didn't really matter what her prayers contained; there was just something comforting in the fact that she was always there, day after day, in the same shaded corner of the courtyard.

She was there the day that Jesus and his bedraggled parents came to the temple. I like to imagine that when Anna saw Mary and Joseph and their child enter the temple, the ninety-year-old woman slowly rose to her feet for the first time in what seemed like years. Once upright, she softly padded toward this family, leaving behind her mat and all of the prayer knickknacks that she had collected over decades. With her wise friend Simeon, she drew close to the child. And after just a few moments of peering at the child's face, she knew that this little one was the future of the tradition to which she had devoted her life. This little baby didn't undo her years spent in the temple; his presence didn't threaten to unravel her faith. On the contrary, years of prayer and fasting allowed her to recognize that he was the continuation of the faith—that somehow he was the world's future. I like to imagine that before resuming her place in the courtyard for the remainder of her earthly days, she shuffled around sharing with others the truth about what her eyes had beheld.

It occurred to me this week as I sat beside Anna in the temple and studied her movements, that Anna's rootedness, her patterns developed over decades could have closed her off from God's presence that day in the temple. But rather than walling her off from God's unexpected visit, all those years of preparation had readied her for the moment when she would say "yes" to this surprising future—for the moment when she would say "yes" to the one who would carry the tradition long after she was gone. Her rootedness in the history of her people, and her patterned prayer life allowed her to be open to the future, to be open to the surprising revelation that God had chosen to come near in this babe, in this innocent little babe.

—Ingrid Rasmussen, Pastor

SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

Within the gospel reading's profound words lies the simple message that God is revealed in a human person. Though we may try to understand how the Word existed with God from the beginning of time, the wonder we celebrate at Christmas is that the Word continues to dwell among us. Christ comes among us in the gathered assembly, the scriptures, the waters of new birth, and the bread and the wine. Through these ordinary gifts we receive the fullness of God's grace and truth.



LESSONS
Jeremiah 31:7-14
Psalm 147:12-20
Ephesians 1:3-14
John 1:1-18

ADULT FORUM

10:00 am – In the library

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

JANUARY 11 The Adult Forum will be led by the
Peace with Justice Committee

Please join us in the library at 10:00 a.m.

RACIAL JUSTICE PLANNING

The Racial Justice Working Group is hosting a conversation with Carrie Carroll, the Dean of Students at Luther Seminary. Prior to her employment at Luther, Carrie led the admissions team at Augsburg through a period of significant and faithful intercultural development. She has wisdom to share with congregations engaging in this work. Join us on Thursday, January 22 at 7:00 p.m. in the church library.

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.

FAITH SUMMIT – JANUARY 13-14, 2015

The Faith Summit, "To Set at Liberty: Faith, Race and the Sin of Mass Incarceration" is a collaborative effort led by the Kaleo Center to ignite, convene and equip 250 faith leaders to understand and lead their congregations and communities in addressing the racialized systems that prohibit African Americans from living productive and healthy lives. Join Allison Johnson and Pastor Ingrid for a lecture on Tuesday, January 13, 7-9 p.m. (free) and/or Wednesday, January 14, 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. (\$25). Talk to Pastor Ingrid for more information.

BOOK STUDY

Please join Nicki Hines and Pastor Ingrid for a book study on Elizabeth Johnson's *Quest for the Living God*. With Johnson's book as a guide, we'll discuss the images of God we carry and explore images that might expand our understanding. Tuesdays, February 10, 17, 24 from 7:00-8:30 p.m. Sign up in the Community Room or call the church office.

Office phone: 612-729-8358
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PARISH EVENTS January 4-10, 2015		
Sunday	8:45 am	Worship Service with Holy Communion
	9:45 am	<i>Three Kings</i> celebration for "Trinity Villagers" (2nd-6th grades)
	10:00 am	Adult Forum
Monday	11:00 am	Worship Service with Holy Communion
	2:00 pm	Swahili Service
	10:00 am	Worship/Fine Arts committee
Tuesday	6:30 pm	Nominating committee
	7:00 pm	Peace w/Justice committee
	11:00 am	Text Study
Wednesday	5:30 pm	Choir families supper
	6-7 pm	Youth choirs
	7:30 pm	Adult choir
Saturday	2:00 pm	Memorial service for Marion Englund

Special gift in honor of Linda's mother, **Ethel Franzen**, by Linda/Gerry Berglin
World Hunger by John/Stephanie Sulzbach and in memory of mother,
Myrtle Nelson, by Gloria Warner
Exodus Lending by Bill/Sue Roberts and Ann White

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS JANUARY 4, 2015		
	8:45 AM	11:00 AM
Linden Kung, Tevy Nou	Acolytes	Oskar Jensen, Linnea Krig
Carol Masters	Assisting Minister	Wayne Vetter
Josh Becker	Crucifer	David Krig
Liz Rudrud, Lyle Steinfeldt	Communion	Sean Gosiewski, Laura Bolstad
Lisa/Bruce Martens	Altar Guild	Stella Townsend, Rosemary Foley
Bob Peschiutta, John Goring, DeWayne Townsend, Marcea Mariani	Ushers	Alan Libra, Dennis/Lynda Nordholm
Randy/Joy Nelson	Coffee Servers	Mark/Sue Hiner
Joyce Peterson, Gerry Berglin	Counters	Scott Cole, Deb Helmel
	Closer	Cliff Brown

	December 28	Year to date
Financial Report		
Budget requirement	13,591.35	706,750.00
Budget receipts	21,019.63	672,408.41
Exodus Appeal	2,530.00	11,527.00
World Hunger	150.00	12,341.57
African Pastors' Fund		1,710.00
Disaster Relief		670.00
Boiler donations		25,632.50
Food shelf		200.00