



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

WORSHIP IN ADVENT: PEACE OF CHRIST

People look east, and sing today—Love, the Guest, is on the way. (ELW 248) Advent is without a doubt my favorite liturgical season. I love the hymnody, which is a beautiful mix of exuberant hope, mystery, and wonder. The language of our Advent poetry is so often communal and embracing. There are very few hymns about what Advent means for “me” and “my” soul; rather, they proclaim what God has done (and will do) for “us” as “we” wait with expectation. We share in the songs of angels, the songs of Zechariah and Mary and Isaiah as we sing our song. We sing and pray about what the world could and should be like.

Rejoice, rejoice, believers, and let your lights appear. The evening is advancing and darker night is near. (ELW 244) Advent planning began this summer at Holy Trinity, not long after the summer solstice announced that from now on the evenings would be getting a little darker and earlier each night. The worship staff met to study the Advent texts and consider what themes might emerge from these readings, and this year the theme of peace came to the surface. Perhaps it was the election cycle already in full-swing, or the continuing violence around the world, or the daily reminders of our need to address racial disparities that brought this theme forward. We held several forum times in July and August to ask for the congregation’s ideas about peace in general, and these Advent texts specifically.

“Comfort, comfort, now my people; tell of peace!” So says our God. (ELW 256) As we journey through Advent together, several worship opportunities have been shaped by this theme of peace. Sunday morning worship services will start with a sung prayer for peace, adapted from a Navajo prayer, that centers our life together before we rise to greet the cross during the opening hymn. Our intercessions will come from cards mailed to the congregation with the Advent devotional book, which gives us all time to consider what prayer for peace we need in our own lives. On December 13th the adult choirs will sing for both services and present a choral sermon in readings, anthems, and hymns that explore the theme of peace in different ways (peace as comfort; peace as standing firm against injustice). At our Wednesday evening prayer services we will hear from members who will offer their reflections about peace.

Unexpected and mysterious is the gentle word of grace. (ELW 258) Ultimately, though, the best we can do as worship leaders is allow for the unknown ways that music, sermons, prayers, and scripture will affect, instruct, warn, and comfort us this Advent. My hope is that as we love these texts and hymns and music, we can more faithfully praise God together as we do the holy and important work of interpreting scripture and imagining how Holy Trinity can proclaim Christ as Emmanuel, God Among Us, this Advent season.

Love be our song and love our prayer, and love our endless story; may God fill every day we share and bring us at last into glory. (ELW 242)

—David Sims, Cantor

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Forerunners and messengers advance the advent of our God. While John the Baptizer’s voice in the wilderness may be the principal focus of the day, Malachi’s prophesy could as easily herald the coming Lord Jesus as forerunner of the Lord of hosts. Finally all the baptized are called to participate in the sharing of the gospel. In so doing we prepare the way for the coming of the Lord and assist all flesh in capturing a vision of the “salvation of God.”



READINGS
Malachi 3:1-4
Luke 1:68-79
Philippians 1:3-11
Luke 3:1-6

ADULT FORUM

10:00 am — in the Library

DECEMBER 6 “Hope in Reentry”
Mark Groves, Director of Rehabilitation Services
at Volunteers of America

Join Mark Groves as he share what hope looks like for men reentering society after time spent in prison. Mark works closely with the reentry facility on Lake Street (located across the Holy Trinity parking lot) that houses more than 50 adult men serving the last six months of their sentences.

DECEMBER 13 “Hope in Resettlement”
Yusuf Abdi, Lutheran Social Service

We are pleased to welcome Yusuf Abdi, Director of Refugee Services at Lutheran Social Service. Yusuf will lead our conversation about hope in resettlement, beginning with his own experience as a refugee from Somalia and moving into his work with resettlement in Minnesota.

PRAYER OF EXAMEN MONDAYS, DECEMBER 7 AND 14

The Prayer of Examen is a spiritual exercise typically credited to St. Ignatius of Loyola [1491-1556]. At the heart of the practice is increasingly becoming aware of God’s presence and the Holy Spirit’s movement throughout your day. If you were able to attend the fall retreat at Villa Maria and want to continue your practice, join us. Those unfamiliar with the practice are welcome, too! We’ll meet in the Bartsch Room from 12:00-12:40 p.m. Come to one or both sessions.

REFUGEE VIGIL

The Interfaith Coalition on Immigration and Minnesotans for Syrian Refugees invite you to join in a vigil to stand in solidarity with refugees and to declare Minnesota a place of welcome on Sunday, December 6, from 2:30-3:00 p.m. in front of the Governor’s Mansion, 1006 Summitt Ave., St. Paul.

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL BOOKLET

Thank you to all the Holy Trinity members who contributed to the Advent Devotional Booklet this year. Extra booklets are available in the church office.

PARISH INFORMATION

WEDNESDAYS IN ADVENT

On Wednesdays, December 2, 9, and 16, we will be having soup suppers from 5:30-6:45 p.m. followed by a Service of Evening Prayer in the Bartsch Room. If you would like to help make soup or clean up, please sign up in the Community Room or call the church office.

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, Broadway High School and World Hunger. To donate online, visit the church website at htlcmpls.org and locate the link to the giving page.

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Congregational Meeting will take place on Sunday, January 31, 2016, immediately following the 11:00 worship service. Lunch will be provided. All members are encouraged to attend.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHILDREN WILL LEAD WORSHIP ON DEC. 20
The Sunday School children will present "The Peace You Bring" and lead worship on Sunday, December 20, at the 11:00 service.

OPENING DOORS SMALL GROUP MEETINGS

Please sign up for a small group meeting where you will have an opportunity to learn more about the *Opening Doors* building campaign to renovate the east entrance of the church building. We hope every Holy Trinity member will participate in this exciting campaign..

POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS

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

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.

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

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Ingrid Rasmussen

PARISH EVENTS December 6-12, 2015

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	12:15 pm	First Sunday Musings at Le Town Talk
	2:00 pm	Swahili Service
	12:00 pm	Prayer of Examen
	6:30 pm	Christian Education Committee
Tuesday	7:00 pm	Peace with Justice Committee
	11:00 am	Worship Readings Discussion
Wednesday	6:30 pm	Writers' Circle
	5 - 8 pm	Labyrinth in the Gym
	5:30 pm	Soup Supper; Trinity Singers
	6:00 pm	Youth Choirs; Children & Family Cmte
	7:00 pm	Advent Evening Prayer
	7:45 pm	Adult Choir

Gifts to Exodus Lending by Stephanie/John Sulzbach; to Malaria Fund by Karen Batdorf; and to World Hunger by Ray Sanders

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS DECEMBER 6, 2015

8:45 AM		11:00 AM	
Anne Beschnett	Crucifer	Jody Cameron	
Maggie Weiss, Peter Weiss	Acolytes	Claudia Jensen, Oskar Jensen	
Andrea Hansen	Assisting Minister	Scott Cole	
Joyce Peterson, Kevin Proescholdt	Communion	Bob Hulteen, Kari Kleven	
Carol/David Berg	Altar Guild	Stella Townsend, Carol Lane	
Bob Peschiutta, Sally/David Kohlstedt	Ushers	Alan Libra, George Madich, Ginny/Chuck Jordan	
Gretchen Lund, Jeff Weiss	Coffee Servers	Deb Anderson, Tracey Baubie	
Donna Heyer, Pam Blomgren	Counters	Vicki Mann, Scott Cole	
	Closer	Vicki Mann	

Financial Report	November 29	Year to date
Budget requirement	13,982.69	671,169.23
Budget receipts	10,496.11	613,965.04
Broadway/Longfellow School	10.00	2,501.00
Exodus Appeal	2,480.50	31,653.74
Malaria Campaign	20.00	40.00
Opening Doors Bldg. Fund	2,535.00	48,510.00
World Hunger	110.00	3,106.50