



THE COMMUNITY CHURCH

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

THE PEACE YOU BRING

*Like the shepherds we come to adore you, Jesus.
Like the shepherds we want the world to know
The peace that you bring,
O let us sing of the seeds of love you sow.*

*Like the magi we bring our gifts, dear Jesus.
Now with joy and thanksgiving and love,
We will bring you our treasures.
We will bring you our hearts.
With praises to God on high.*

This Sunday the students of Godly Play and Trinity Village (age 4-Grade 5) will help us continue our Advent reflection on the peace of Jesus. Their presentation during the 11:00 service will follow a "lessons and carols" format and will include six new songs by Anne and William McNair. The children have been preparing for several weeks to lead our congregation in worship. Come expecting to hear the Christmas story with fresh perspective and to learn a few new songs, too!

In the course of our preparations this fall, the children and Ann have talked about the fact that sometimes each of us steps into the Jesus story and acts as an ANGEL, or one who tells the good news, and sometimes we are like the MAGI, seeking truth and a way to God. At times, we ourselves may be like a STAR, shining a light on places where God is. And sometimes, we, like the SHEPHERDS, respond immediately when we hear the Good News! The children have each been asked which of these roles they wish to be in on Sunday as we tell the story of Jesus' birth, and will be wearing a symbol on their heads indicating "who" they are that day. But there is no doubt that over the course of their lives, they will find themselves playing each of these roles at different times, depending where they may be on their journey of faith.

During both the 8:45 and 11:00 services on Sunday, we will hear again the story of Mary's annunciation and sing together her magnificat, a song of praise and hope. Though an unlikely prophet, young and poor, Mary proclaims confidence in God's peace which can turn upside-down the injustices of our world. She reminds us that any one of us—young, old, wealthy, poor—can be a messenger of peace.

Blessings to you this final week of Advent. May the peace of Christ be with you and inspire you to bring peace to our world.

*Come with us to Bethlehem!
Come with joy, young and old.
Come with us to Bethlehem.
There a story will soon unfold!*

—Jay Carlson and Ann Schrooten

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Having learned from the angel that she will give birth to the Son of God, Mary hurries to visit her pregnant relative Elizabeth in the hill country. The intimate conversation that follows portrays Jesus as more important than John. It also shows God already at work to overturn the world's structures and expectations. The spotlight shines on Mary and Elizabeth, two lowly and shamed ones through whom God has chosen to begin the transformation of the world.
(Judith Jones)



READINGS
Micah 5:2-5a
Luke 1:39-55

SCHEDULE FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

Sunday, December 20

Worship with Holy Communion at 8:45 a.m. in the Sanctuary
Worship led by Holy Trinity Children and Youth at 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Thursday, December 24

Christmas Eve Worship with Holy Communion at 4:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

ADULT FORUM

10:00 am — in the Library

DECEMBER 20 "Hope in Singing" David Sims, Cantor

David Sims believes that hope resides in communal singing. Join us as we drink hot cider and sing our favorite Advent and Christmas hymns.

DECEMBER 27 "Hope in Ferguson" Korla Masters, Seminarian

Korla Masters is one of our seminarians; she's in her second year at Eden Theological Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri. This past year, her theological convictions led her to be deeply involved in the work for racial justice following the murder of Michael Brown. Come and hear how she thinks about hope in the midst of unrest and change.

YEAR END GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

Every year Holy Trinity anticipates and relies on a year-end increase in offerings 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/Longfellow High School and World Hunger. To donate online, visit the church website at htlcmpls.org and locate the link to the giving page. *Please remember: contributions must be received or postmarked by December 31, 2015, to be counted as a 2015 donation. Thank you!*

PARISH INFORMATION

THIRD ANNUAL FAMILY RETREAT FEBRUARY 12-14, 2016

All are invited to join the family retreat from Friday, February 12-Sunday, February 14, at the Chi Rho Retreat Center in Annandale, Minnesota. Cost is \$80/adult and \$50/child age 4-18 (0-3 are free). Cost includes lodging and four meals. This lightly-structured weekend includes a family art project, a ping pong tournament, some outdoor activities, and a worship service. Scholarships are available; talk to Pastor Jay Carlson. Sign up in the Community Room.

GAME NIGHT SATURDAY, JANUARY 9, 5:30 P.M.

Chili, snacks, and games galore! Holy Trinity members and friends of all ages are invited to an evening of comfort food, laughter, and some fun competition playing favorite games and new games. Sign up in the Community Room by January 3.

POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS

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

SWEDISH MEATBALL DINNER AT MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
Messiah Lutheran Church will host a Swedish Meatball Dinner with trimmings on December 20, 2015, from 6-7 p.m. in the Center for Changing Lives, 2400 Park Avenue S., Minneapolis, following the 4:00 Augustana Christmas Communion Liturgy. \$12 for adults.

SNOW SHOVELING

The season of snow is (likely!) going to be upon us soon. Do you need help shoveling snow this season? Your neighbors are here to help! Join this volunteer network that pairs Greater Longfellow neighbors in need with volunteer shovelers. This service prioritizes helping those with a disability. To request help or to volunteer to shovel, email libby@longfellow.org. For people over age 60 who require help, please contact home@seniorcommunity.org or call 952-746-4046.

CONFIRMATION RETREAT

The annual confirmation retreat will be held January 16-18 at Luther Park in Danbury, Wisconsin. Current confirmation students will receive a registration form in the mail soon.

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

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PARISH EVENTS December 20-26, 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, led by Sunday School children
	2:00 pm	Swahili Service
Monday	6:00 pm	Church Council at Pastor Ingrid's
Tuesday	11:00 am	Worship Readings Discussion
Wednesday	6:30 pm	Children's Choir
	7:30 pm	Adult Choir
Thursday	4:00 pm	Christmas Eve Twilight Service
	10:00 pm	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, led by Adult Choir
Friday	11:00 am	Swahili Christmas Service

Opening Doors in memory of loved ones by Paul Krumrei

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS DECEMBER 20, 2015

8:45 AM		11:00 AM	
Josh Becker	Crucifer	David Krig	
Jade Masiee-Albers, Anton Werth	Acolytes	Emily Davison, Mason Helmel	
Sally Kohlstedt	Assisting Minister	Sunday School	
Liz Rudrud, Jeff Weiss	Communion	Gary Johnson	
Lisa/Bruce Martens	Altar Guild	Rosemary Foley, Linda Woytasek	
Bob Peschiutta, Chris Engen, John Goring	Ushers	Riley Conway, Kathy Ohler, Lee Kampinen, Joshua Combs	
Carol/Ken Masters	Coffee Servers	Anna Brelje, Allison Johnson	
Gerry Berglin, Dennis Nordholm	Counters	Wayne Vetter, Pam Kildahl	
	Closer	Cliff Brown	

	December 13	Year to date
Financial Report		
Budget requirement	13,982.69	699,134.62
Budget receipts	10,770.41	638,975.60
Broadway/Longfellow School	10.00	2,521.00
Exodus Appeal	5.00	31,663.74
Opening Doors Bldg. Fund	5,860.00	55,370.00
World Hunger	10.00	3,116.50