



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

## REMEMBERING THE HOLY INNOCENTS

December 28 is the date in the church calendar for the commemoration of the “Holy Innocents.” It arises from the biblical story of Herod’s execution of all young male children in the area of Bethlehem, due to his anxiety over losing the throne (Matthew 2). We remember that Christ’s coming poses a threat to those in power, and the response can be violent.

This Gospel story is a jarring contrast from the singing of *Silent Night* and *Away in a Manger* just last Thursday night. All of our warm feelings and wishes of peace and goodwill seem to be dashed away, as if by today’s sudden snow storm. And still, though we would like to avoid it, it may be a necessary part of our Christmas celebration. Stanley Hauerwas writes of this passage, “Perhaps no event in the gospel more determinatively challenges the sentimental depiction of Christmas than the death of these children. Jesus is born into a world in which children are killed, and continue to be killed, to protect the power of tyrants.”

This passage today is a reminder that Christ is present still with God’s suffering children throughout the world. Jesus himself was a refugee fleeing from a tyrant’s violent intimidation. Today we might also remember the refugees of our world and especially the children caught up in such struggles, fleeing Syria or other places. In our awareness of war, terrorism, police brutality, and other forms of violence, we may need to hear the lament from Matthew 2: “A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.” The verse gives us words for expressing our sorrow, and it reminds us that there is room for such grief in a life of faith.

Still, this Gospel story is rooted in hope. This mention of Rachel in Matthew is a reference to the prophet Jeremiah and specifically a turning point in that Old Testament book. It serves as the transition from judgment to a proclamation of hope in God’s saving promise. Yes, the people have been exiled from their home, but they will return. Rachel’s cry is the moment when things begin to change.

Matthew recalls Rachel’s lament to tell us two truths. First, the world into which Jesus was born contains sorrow and pain. That has been true and continues to be true after Christmas. But the second message is that God is fully present with us and present to save.

When we think of the children hurting in our world today, we know that our wishes for peace and good intentions will not save us. Even our best efforts and generous giving, while absolutely necessary, will not finally save us. Ultimately, our hope is in the One who chooses to be born among us, as one of us. Nothing will separate us from God. Nothing—no tyrant or grief or worry or sin—will keep us and our children from the love and saving grace of God.

—Pastor Jay Carlson

## ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING SUNDAY, JANUARY 31

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.

## EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

*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.*



### READINGS

Jeremiah 31:7-14  
Psalm 147:12-20  
Ephesians 1:3-14  
John 1:[1-9] 10-18

### ADULT FORUM

10:00 am – in the Library

### JANUARY 3 “Hope on Internship” Meagan McLaughlin, Seminarian

Meagan McLaughlin is one of our seminarians; she’s just completed her theological education at United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities. She will soon be a fine pastor somewhere in the southeastern region of Minnesota. Before we send her off into that new adventure, however, we have the opportunity to hear how she thought about hope during her internship at Mount Olive Lutheran Church in Minneapolis.

### JANUARY 10 “Hope with Jayanthi Kyle”

Jayanthi Kyle is an archivist songstress collecting songs that speak to her struggle and empowerment and ability to be, change, and move forward while honoring the unremembered changers and movers of yore. She sings for people passing worlds (new or old or hardly used) in 7 bands and has the heart of a mother. She continues to work with the Million Artist Movement to dismantle racism and injustice towards people of color and dream collectively to produce actions for change. Ms. Kyle will also offer her musical gifts during worship.

### 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.

### MONDAY, JANUARY 11—SPOKEN WORD BY LONGFELLOW ALTERNATIVE HIGH SCHOOL

Longfellow Alternative High School (formerly known as Broadway High School) is located a few blocks east of Holy Trinity on 31st Street. We established a partnership with the school in 2013, which has provided many meaningful exchanges between the school’s students and staff and Holy Trinity’s congregants and friends. The high school has recently completed a unit on spoken word, an art form that focuses on wordplay and storytelling. Come and hear the students perform their pieces in the Bartsch Room beginning at 6:30 p.m. Please note: This performance is not intended for all audiences; some adult language will be used. Sign up in the Community Room by January 10.

# 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.

## SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6--ENCORE! LUMINARY LOPPET

Join the Encore! group as they ski, snowshoe, or walk the path on the ice of Lake of the Isles. \$22/person registration fee goes to the Loppet Foundation to support various community efforts. Register for a 6:30 p.m. slot by January 19 at the Loppet website (<https://www.loppet.org/luminary-loppet/register/>), AND sign up in the Community Room, so we know to look for you. Questions? Talk with Kathy Ohler.

## DID YOU KNOW...

The stained glass processional cross was designed and made by Tim Kretzmann, a member of Holy Trinity, and given by him as a gift in 2002.

## RACIAL JUSTICE 1.0 SMALL GROUPS

Holy Trinity is again offering three discussion groups on addressing racism. Groups will be small and will meet six times over the course of three months. The purpose of the groups is to provide an environment for exploring racism and the collaborative role we play in maintaining it. Discussions will also attend to our faith and to how we can take action to promote racial justice. We will use Paul Kivel's book, "Uprooting Racism: How White People Can Work for Racial Justice," and other articles and films to explore our own identity, bias, and privilege. All groups will meet at Holy Trinity. Child care provided, as needed. Sign up in the Community Room.

Dodd and Myrna Lamberton will lead a group on Saturdays from 9:30-11:30 a.m. on January 16, 23, 30; February 20, 27; and March 5.

Maelene Krig and Randy Nelson will lead a group on Tuesdays from 6:30-8:30 p.m. on January 12, 26; February 9, 23; and March 8, 22.

Libby and Keith Olstad will lead a group on Wednesdays from 10:00 a.m.-noon on January 13, 20; February 3, 17; and March 2, 16.

Participants must commit to attend at least five of the six sessions. If you anticipate missing more than one session, please wait for the next set of small groups. If the groups fill before you are able to join one, please contact Pastor Ingrid to be put on the waiting list.

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

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## PARISH EVENTS January 3-9, 2016

Sunday	8:45 am	Worship Service with Holy Communion
	10:00 am	Adult Forum
	11:00 am	Worship Service with Holy Communion
	12:15 pm	First Sunday Musings at Le Town Talk
	12:30 pm	Confirmation Teachers meet
Monday	2:00 pm	Swahili Service
	6:30 pm	Christian Education Committee
Tuesday	7:00 pm	Peace with Justice Committee
	11:00 am	Worship Readings Discussion
Wednesday	5:30 pm	Choir Families Supper
	6:00 pm	Youth Committee
	6:00 pm	Youth Choirs
	7:30 pm	Adult Choir
Saturday	5:30-8:30 pm	Game Night

Special gift in memory of parents by Ann Neuendorf/Gary Ogren  
Malaria Fund by Karen Batdorf  
African Pastors' Fund by Karen Batdorf, Kristin Miller  
Longfellow Alternative School by Clairann Hanson, Dorothy Kelly, Bob Brose  
World Hunger by Paul Krumrei, Gary Johnson, Bob Brose, Karen Batdorf  
Syrian Refugee Relief by the Sunday School students

## WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS JANUARY 3, 2016

8:45 AM		11:00 AM	
Lisa Martens	Crucifer	Troy Davison	
Grayson Wieczorek, Tevy Nou	Acolytes	Louis Kelley, Will Kelley	
Nicki Hines	Assisting Minister	Libby Olstad	
Gerry Werth, Josh Becker	Communion	Lynda/Dennis Nordholm	
Shelley Grimes, Bev Peschiutta	Altar Guild	DeWayne/Melanie Townsend family	
Bev/Bob Peschiutta, John Goring	Ushers	Joshua Combs, Oskar Jensen, Mike Mann, Jeff Olsen Biebighauser	
Turid/Dennis Ormseth	Coffee Servers	Gary Johnson	
Pam Blomgren, Bob Peschiutta	Counters	Vicki Mann	
	Closer	Rod Johnson	

Financial Report	December 27	Year to date
Budget requirement	13,591.35	727,100.00
Budget receipts	20,721.88	682,456.49
World Hunger	155.00	3,482.50
African Pastors' Fund	90.00	455.00
Longfellow Alternative School	180.00	2,761.00
ELCA Malaria Campaign	20.00	60.00