



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

INCARNATE PROMISE

Sermon excerpt from January 10, Baptism of Jesus Sunday.

The Gospels say John preached a baptism of repentance, which means a turning in a completely new direction. That crowd followed John in turning away from the systems and powers that kept so many from living fully as God's beloved children. But they were also turning toward something new: a new community, a new commitment to justice and peace for all people, a restored hope.

Jesus was also baptized. He walked into that water right alongside his neighbors, his brothers and sisters, and he himself turned toward the beginning of a new mission. Later, he'll describe that mission as "bringing good news to the poor, proclaiming release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, letting the oppressed go free." It was a huge mission. But before he began all that, he went into the river. As he came up, he saw the Holy Spirit incarnated in the bodily form of a bird, and he heard a voice from heaven say, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." He saw and heard for himself that he was not alone, that he belonged to God, that he was loved.

Something similar happened to Jesus later on atop the mountain of transfiguration. That was another time that he needed a clear reminder of who and whose he was. But I expect there were many such times during his life and work. Maybe he heard it also during some of the times he went off to pray by himself. Maybe he heard it while worshiping and studying at the synagogue. Maybe he heard it from his friends, Lazarus, Mary, Martha, or even the disciples. Sure, Jesus always knew he was loved by God. His parents and grandparents had taught him the scriptures and brought him to the festivals of worship. He knew the story of God well. But he, like all of us, needed at times to hear that good news voiced and to see it in bodily form.

How do God's promises take on flesh today? Teresa of Avila wrote:

Christ has no body but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which he looks
Compassion on this world,
Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good,
Yours are the hands, with which he blesses all the world.

What an amazing—and scary—thought that is, that God can be incarnated in you and me. When we celebrate baptism, we surround the baptized with people—parents, sponsors, a congregation—who promise to repeat God's message to them, again and again, especially when they need to hear it most. We promise to be that voice of God for them. It's our first task as the church to tell people—child or adult, member or nonmember, person of Christian faith or another faith or no faith at all—that they are valued and worthy of love. Then we can stand with one another as sisters and brothers, a people not left alone, a people of hope.

—Jay Carlson, Pastor

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

The Sundays after Epiphany continue to celebrate the revelation of the glory of God to us as it was made known to the magi and to those on Jordan's banks at the baptism of Jesus—today using wedding imagery. Our God rejoices over God's people "as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride." By the power of the Spirit there are gifts galore for everyone. In Christ Jesus the best wine is saved for last. Taste and see.



READINGS

Isaiah 62:1-5
Psalm 36:5-10
1 Corinthians 12:1-11
John 2:1-11

ADULT FORUM

10:00 am – in the Library

JANUARY 17 "Hope at the End of Life"
Michael Douglas

Michael Douglas, Holy Trinity member, has been practicing medicine for over twenty years, specializing in geriatrics. Come and hear him talk about hope and aging. Bring your questions, too!

JANUARY 24 "Report from Luther Park"

This is an adult forum you won't want to miss. Hear the Confirmation students, who have just returned from their retreat in Danbury, Wisconsin, reflect on their time together. They'll talk about hope, too.

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.

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.

DID YOU KNOW...

Holy Trinity's pipe organ is a 22 rank Cassavant built in a suburb of Quebec. It was played in worship for the first time on Easter morning 1974. Our organist at the time—and consultant on the project—was Layten Heckman.

PARISH INFORMATION

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 (loppet.org/luminary-loppet/register), AND sign up in the Community Room so we know to look for you. Questions? Talk with Kathy Ohler.

PARENTS' NIGHT OUT FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5

Adults and youth work together caring for HTLC children while their parents go "out" from 6:00-9:00 p.m. Sign up in the Community Room by Sunday, January 31, to help with childcare or to save a spot for your child(ren) in the nursery. Volunteers must complete a background check through Holy Trinity.

FIRST FRIDAY WITH FRIENDS FEBRUARY 5

Join the 20s, 30s, 40s group for ice skating at the Lake Hiawatha rink. After we've fallen a few times, we'll walk to Heather Mitchell and Bryan Kuzel's nearby home to warm up. Sign up in the Community Room by Sunday, January 31.

MEALS ON WHEELS

Holy Trinity will be delivering meals the week of January 25-29. Volunteers are needed to deliver meals; sign up in the Community Room to deliver 1-5 days. Meals are picked up at Nokomis Square, 50th St. and 35th Ave. S. at 11:15 a.m. Delivery takes around 1 hour. Call or talk with Mary Engen if you have questions.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST AND BAKE SALE FEBRUARY 7

The middle school and high school youth invite everyone to breakfast in the gym before or after worship. Proceeds from the breakfast and bake sale will support summer youth trips, especially a trip in July to Camp Christikon near Billings, Montana. Tickets are \$5 and will be available Sundays in the Community Room and at the door.

STUDY/TRAVEL SEMINAR TO GERMANY

Those interested in participating in the Study/Travel Seminar to Germany in October of this year are reminded that a deposit of \$375 by February 1 will guarantee a reservation for the event. Checks should be made out to Holy Trinity Lutheran Church and sent to the church office. Deposits are refundable up to June 1. For more information contact Randy Nelson.

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

U.S. Postage Paid
Periodical

THE COMMUNITY CHURCH USPS 777-060
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Community Church, c/o Holy Trinity
2730 E. 31 St. Mpls., MN. 55406. Published weekly by Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 612-
729-8358. Periodicals postage paid at St. Paul, Minnesota. Pastors Jay Carlson, Ingrid
Rasmussen

PARISH EVENTS January 17-23, 2016

Sunday	All day	Confirmation Retreat
	8:45 am	Worship Service with Holy Communion
	9:45 am	Sunday School
	10:00 am	Adult Forum
Monday	11:00 am	Worship Service with Holy Communion
	2:00 pm	Swahili Service
	12:30 pm	Confirmation students return
	6:00 pm	Executive Committee
Tuesday	7:00 pm	Council
	11:00 am	Worship Readings Discussion
Wednesday	5:30 pm	Choir Families Supper
	6:00 pm	Youth Choirs
	7:30 pm	Adult Choir
Thursday	8:00 am	Encore! at Turtle Bread

Malaria Campaign by Karen Batdorf
World Hunger by Karen Batdorf

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS JANUARY 17, 2016

8:45 AM		11:00 AM
Anne Beschnett	Crucifer	Cliff Brown
Lowenna Rian-Fairley	Acolytes	Audrey Jakopin, Oskar Jensen
Liz Rudrud	Assisting Minister	Dennis Ormseth
Rick Liedholm, Brian Lenz	Communion	Libby/Keith Olstad
Carol/David Berg	Altar Guild	Betty/Dick Pittelkow
Bob Peschiutta, Chris Engen, John Goring	Ushers	Lee Kampinen, Mark Hiner, Helen/Bob Norheim
Carol/David Berg	Coffee Servers	Pat/Alan Libra
Dennis Nordholm, Chris Engen	Counters	Wayne Vetter, Scott Cole
	Closer	Vicki Mann

Financial Report	January 10	Year to date
Budget receipts	35,959.21	42,868.21
Opening Doors	16,315.00	16,865.00
Longfellow/Broadway H.S.	10.00	10.00
ELCA Malaria Campaign	20.00	20.00
World Hunger	25.00	25.00