



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

### JUST (DON'T) GHOST

I've been thinking a lot about congregational membership—the process by which churches publicly claim some people and not others. My clergy peers have expressed dissatisfaction that churches separate members from non-members. "It's not Christian," I'm told. Some days I align with these dissenting voices. After all, I agree that the church is too fluid to maintain clear boundaries and too egalitarian to privilege the few. By raising questions about membership my friends and I aren't being disagreeable and anti-establishment; we simply want the church's structure to reflect what we know to be true of God's wide love and unbounded grace. Then there are other days like today.

I learned a new word last year: ghosting. I was first introduced to the term in an article in which the author makes the case that people make leave-taking harder than it needs to be. Stevenson writes that "as [my birthday party] wore on, and friends fell by the wayside, each departure occasioned a small ritual. A pal would sidle up to whichever conversational circle I was in; edge closer and closer, so as to make herself increasingly conspicuous; and finally smile, apologetically, when the conversation halted so I could turn to her and say goodbye."

It wasn't that Stevenson didn't appreciate these well-intentioned efforts; he did. But he pointed toward a better way:

Ghosting...refers to leaving a social gathering without saying your farewells. One moment you're at...the house party or the Sunday morning wedding brunch. The next moment you're gone. In the manner of a ghost. "Where'd he go?" your friends might wonder. But—and this is key—they probably won't even notice that you've left.

It's a genius strategy—one I hope to employ with more frequency in 2016 at college reunions and New Year's Eve parties, political rallies and wedding receptions. It's also a strategy that congregational membership wisely seeks to curb. Because while ghosting can be life-giving in certain social situations, it's deadly for the church.

When people go through the congregational membership process at Holy Trinity—as 22 gifted people are about to do—we don't require them to confess a creed, dress appropriately, pass a theological exam, sing on pitch, get a tattoo, become an usher, commit to a small group, or give money. We do, however, (usually over a bowl of soup and a hunk of bread) ask that they care for the community that gathers here and allow the community that gathers here to care for them. Intentional communication about our comings and goings makes this possible.

So ghost away in 2016. But try your best not to ghost at Holy Trinity; we'll wonder where you've gone.

Peace,  
Pastor Ingrid C. A. Rasmussen

PS. Come and meet the new members in the Community Room at 10 a.m. on Sunday, March 13!

### EASTER LILIES

If you'd like to order an Easter lily for the altar area, please call the church office. Lilies may be purchased in honor or memory of a loved one and will be listed in the Easter bulletin. The cost is \$12.

### FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

*The psalm sets the tone this day: "Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!" Happy are those who have "become the righteousness of God" in the merits of Christ Jesus. Happy are those for whom the forgiveness of God has "rolled away...the disgrace" of former times. Happy is the father at the return of his prodigal son. Happy are we that our sins are forgiven for Jesus' sake. Rejoice!*



### READINGS

Joshua 5:9-12  
Psalm 32  
2 Corinthians 5:16-21  
Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

### ADULT FORUM

10:00 am

### MARCH 6 "Youth Recital"

We will feature the children and youth of Holy Trinity in our Annual Youth Recital in the Sanctuary.

### MARCH 13 "New Member Welcome"

Please plan to attend our new member welcome in the Community Room. We will hear current members Julie Cahoy and Anne Curtin offer reflections on their participation in this community. And we'll have the opportunity to meet the 22 people choosing to become partners in ministry at Holy Trinity!

### FIRST FRIDAY WITH FRIENDS MARCH 4, 6:30 P.M.

Adam Copeland is the director of stewardship leadership at Luther Seminary. He blogs well and blogs often on stewardship, crowdfunding, new media and religion, church leadership, and digital culture. Join Adam and your peers in their 20s, 30s, and 40s at Pastor Ingrid's house at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, March 4, for pizza and conversation about the church and the generations, specifically Generation X and Millennials.

### DOWNTOWN LUNCH GROUP WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9

Periodically, those who live or work downtown meet for lunch. This time you'll find them at Thrivent Cafe (625 4th Ave. S., Skyway Level) at 12:00 p.m. Sign up in the Community Room by March 6 so organizers know how many seats to save.

### SPECIAL ENCORE! EVENTS

Join us **Thursday, March 17** (St. Patty's Day), at 9:00 a.m. (instead of 8:00) for an Irish Breakfast at Merlins Rest Pub (36th and Lake St.). We have a reservation so please RSVP to Nancy Moe so we can update the reservation list. On **Saturday, March 19**, we will meet at 5:00 p.m. at Pizza Luce, 800 W 66th Street, Richfield. We can share pizzas and stories about what is going on in our lives and the world around us. Sign up in the Community Room.

SPRING FORWARD!  
DAYLIGHT SAVINGS BEGINS SUNDAY, MARCH 13.

## PARISH INFORMATION

### BOUNDARY WATERS TRIP SUMMER 2016

Sign up in the Community Room if you're interested in a trip to the Boundary Waters in August. Dates being considered are August 12-15 or August 19-22, 2016. The cost for the trip will be \$150. For more information, talk to Tom and Julie Cahoy or John Sulzbach.

### TALKING WITH KIDS ABOUT RACE, SATURDAY, MARCH 12

How can we speak with children honestly about race and privilege in a way that encourages racial justice in our society? Anyone who lives with or talks with children of any age is invited to join us for this three-hour workshop, led by the YWCA, Saturday, March 12, 9 a.m.-12:00 p.m. at Holy Trinity. Sign up in the Community Room. Childcare is available.

### THE SHOE BUS IS COMING!

In connection with Fare for All, the Shoe Bus will be here on Wednesday, March 9, from 3:30-5:30 p.m. The Shoe Bus has 1,000 pairs of new and gently used shoes for children and adults. Suggested donation for shoes is \$2 for sizes 0-6 1/2 and \$5 for sizes 7 and up. Every purchase helps provide food for the feeding programs of Good in the 'Hood.

### DAY ON THE HILL TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 5:30-8:30 P.M.

What can we learn from Moses about advocacy and building a more just society? JRLC is taking Day on the Hill on the road to answer that very question. This event will include a meal, training, issue briefings, and a chance to take action on important social justice issues. Details and registration information can be found at [www.jrlc.org/day-on-the-hill](http://www.jrlc.org/day-on-the-hill). Note that registration is required, but scholarships are available; talk with Pastor Jay or Meghan Olsen Biebighauser if you'd like one. Sign up in the Community Room if you'd like to ride with us in the church van.

### DIALOGUE BREAKFAST THURSDAY, MARCH 10

A dialogue breakfast is scheduled for Thursday, March 10, at 8:00 a.m. with J. Drake Hamilton, Science Policy Director at Fresh Energy, and Forest Redlin, a junior at Macalester College. Hamilton will lead a discussion on the United Nations Climate Summit recently held in Paris, the agreement, and next steps for Minnesota. Redlin will talk about the power and influence of the interfaith community represented at the Paris climate summit. Register at [htlcmpls.org/dialogueevents](http://htlcmpls.org/dialogueevents) or call the church office. There is a suggested donation of \$5 for the breakfast.

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

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. 31st 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 March 6-12, 2016

Sunday	8:45 am	Worship Service with Holy Communion	
	9:30 am	Confirmation	9:45 am Sunday School
	10:00 am	Youth Recital in the Sanctuary	
	11:00 am	Worship Service with Holy Communion	
	12:15 pm	First Sunday Musings at Himalayan	
Monday	2:00 pm	Swahili Service	
	11 am-2:30 pm	AARP Tax Aide	
	6:30 pm	Adult Ed.	7:00 pm Peace w/Justice
Tuesday	10:00 am	Mosaic Workshop	
	11:00 am	Worship Readings Discussion	
Wednesday	11 am-2:30 pm	AARP Tax Aide	
	5:30 pm	Day on the Hill	6:30 pm Writers' Circle
	2:00 pm	Loaves & Fishes	
	3:30-5:30 pm	Fare for All/Shoe bus	
	5:00-7:00 pm	Labyrinth in the Gym	
Thursday	5:30 pm	Soup Supper / Trinity Singers	
	5:45 pm	Bible Basics in the Library	
	6:00 pm	Youth Choirs / Children-Family Committee	
	7:00 pm	Lenten Evening Prayer in Bartsch Room	
	7:45 pm	Adult Choir	
Saturday	8:00 am	Dialogue Breakfast	
	6:00 pm	New member meal	
Sunday	9:00 am-12:00 pm	Talking with Kids About Race	

### WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS MARCH 6, 2016

8:45 AM		11:00 AM
Kayden Nordby, Elena Alpizar	<b>Acolytes</b>	Oskar Jensen, Claudia Jensen
Andrew R. K. Johnson	<b>Assisting Minister</b>	Meagan Fortier
Sally/David Kohlstedt	<b>Communion</b>	Kris Christians, George Christians
Dianne Mascher, Arlene Mirelez, Bev Peschiutta	<b>Altar Guild</b>	Melanie Townsend & family
Bob Peschiutta, Ginny/Chuck Jordan	<b>Ushers</b>	Deb Anderson, Tracey Baubie, Joshua Combs
Gerry/Linda Berglin	<b>Coffee Servers</b>	Alyssa Erickson/Kwame Owusu-Acheampong
Chris Engen, Dennis Nordholm	<b>Counters</b>	Scott Cole, Gary Johnson
	<b>Closer</b>	Deb Sodt

<b>Financial Report</b>	<b>February 28</b>	<b>Year to date</b>
Budget requirements	14,432.69	129,894.23
Budget receipts	17,581.53	125,034.71
Opening Doors	4,017.87	72,064.07
World Hunger	210.00	377.00

**Opening Doors** in memory of **Mary Lindell** by Kay/John Buzza, and in memory of **Paul Eid** by Lynda/Dennis Nordholm

**World Hunger** by Ray Sanders and in memory of **Mary Lindell** by Susan/Mike Wootten  
Special gift in memory of **Mary Lindell** by Deb Sodt.