



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

VALLEY AND DAWN

Yesterday's worship service was artfully led by Holy Trinity Cantor David Sims, Trinity Singers, and the Adult Choir. The Third Sunday of Advent was filled with landscape imagery in both readings and song. We moved from mountains to wilderness to valleys to dawn. The reflections, which Roberta Shaw, Andrea Hansen, and Lynda Nordhom read, were written by David Sims. For those of you who couldn't make your way through the snow or who simply wish to hear them again, here are the reflections written on the valley and the dawn.

Valley

A valley is both a place of safety and danger. They are closed-in spaces, darker than the heights above and narrower than the fields beyond. They call to mind the valley of the shadow of death from the psalms, or that time Jesus had to walk that lonesome valley all by himself.

But valleys invade our Advent imaginations because they are also roadways in the wilderness. They offer abundant water and protection for those who dwell in them or pass through them. They channel their resources closer and closer together, until the streams from one mountain peak meet the streams from another.

Our Advent calling is to hope that God's dream for the world, God's love and light and righteousness, will come flooding down the mountainside into the valley in which we live. We hope for light in the dark corners of our world. We yearn for new highways that lead us through and beyond the paths we have already explored. We hope that God will show us how to listen to those in danger and be with the vulnerable.

When we are in a valley, we hope for God to bring wonder.

Dawn

Mountain, wilderness, or valley: they all take on new shapes in the light of morning. Dawn floods the mountains with light, reflecting off their gleaming slopes. Dawn makes the wilderness burst with color and texture, and reaches her rosy fingers into every corner of the valley. In that sense dawn serves as a prophet, revealing the truth about the world around us and calling us to pay attention in a new way. Dawn serves as a blessing, touching every person with warmth and light without prejudice or preference. And dawn serves as a reminder that the horizon is there because we live on a rounded planet, together. It is our calling to embrace the earth's landscapes and treat them with care. It is our calling to embrace the earth's people and treat them with love. And it is a joy to wait, prepare, and rejoice in the morning, this day and for all the days to come.

CHRISTMAS TREES DONATED TO HOLY TRINITY

Thank you to Chris Amundson, Bruce Johnson, Rodney Johnson, Lee Kampinen, John Kelly, Bob Norheim, and Margaret Peterson, members of the Y Service Club, for donating the trees used in the Bartsch Room and the sanctuary at Holy Trinity.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Today Isaiah prophesies that a young woman will bear a son and name him Emmanuel. The gospel is Matthew's account of the annunciation and birth of the one named Emmanuel, God-with-us. During these final days of Advent we pray, "O come, O come, Emmanuel," a beloved hymn based on ancient prayers appointed for the seven days preceding Christmas. On this final Sunday in Advent we prepare to celebrate the birth of the one born to save us from the power of sin and death.



READINGS

Isaiah 7:10-16
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
Romans 1:1-7
Matthew 1:18-25

SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAM AT 11:00 A.M. ON DECEMBER 18

ADULT FORUM

10:00 am—in the Library

DECEMBER 18 "Climate Change Initiatives in Minnesota" Peace with Justice Committee

Members Kathy Hollander and Sean Gosiewski will discuss their efforts, personal and occupational, to directly address climate change initiatives in the Twin Cities and the entire state of Minnesota, and to alert Minnesotans to the urgency of climate change.

DECEMBER 25 Christmas Day: No Adult Forum

POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS

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

ENDING SEX TRAFFICKING IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

Keep an eye out for an event about a faith-based response to sex trafficking. This event will be in late January or early February. It will be sponsored by a newly formed group of congregations along Lake Street and will focus on learning from those directly impacted and how faith communities can become engaged in the work of ending sex trafficking in our neighborhood. Watch for more information soon.

PARISH INFORMATION

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, Refugee Resettlement Program and ELCA 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, 2016, to be counted as a 2016 donation. Thank you!**

ADVENT SOUP SUPPERS AND EVENING SERVICES

All are invited to partake in the Advent soup suppers on Wednesday, December 21, from 6:00-6:45 p.m. in the Community Room. Soup and bread are provided; free-will donations are accepted. The community moves downstairs at 7:00 p.m. for the Service of Evening Prayer in the Bartsch Room. This year's Advent theme is "For the Healing of Creation."

GAME NIGHT SATURDAY, JANUARY 7, 7:00-9:00 P.M.

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 games. Bring a favorite game and a snack to share. Confirmation students bring your sponsor! Come, snack, and play between 7-9 p.m. Sign up in the Community Room by January 1.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM DEC. 18, 11:00 A.M.

Show Us the Way to Bethlehem will be presented by the Godly Play and Trinity Village classes at the 11 a.m. worship service on December 18. The children will share stories and songs that help us all to follow those who guide us to the manger.

ANNUAL MEETING SUNDAY, JANUARY 29, 12:00 P.M.

Following the 11:00 a.m. service, all are invited to the gym for a free meal and the annual congregational meeting, as we celebrate the 113th year of God's ministry through Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. We will review committee goals, elect new council members, and approve the 2016 budget. The annual meeting is also an opportunity for us to check on our progress made toward congregational goals.

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

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PARISH EVENTS December 18-24, 2016

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
	2:00 pm	Swahili Service
Monday	7:00 pm	Council Meeting at Pastor Jay's house
Tuesday	11:00 am	Worship Readings Discussion
Wednesday	6:00 pm	Soup Supper
	6:00 pm	Youth Choirs
	7:00 pm	Advent Evening Prayer Service
	7:45 pm	Adult Choir
Saturday	4:00 pm	Worship Service with Holy Communion
	10:00 pm	Candlelight Service with Holy Communion

World Hunger by Judy/Troy Davison and in honor of Sheldon Torgerson's 90th birthday by Lois Eid

Special Gift in memory of Bev McGee by Rodney Erickson

Opening Doors in memory of Gerry Werth and in honor of Marge Torgerson by Lois Eid

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS DECEMBER 18, 2016

8:45 AM		11:00 AM
Karen Batdorf	Assisting Minister	Sandy Hoverson
Claudia Jensen, Molly Davison	Acolytes	Johnny Waddick, Amelia Waddick
Samantha Waddick	Crucifer	Jeff Olsen Biebighauser
David Kohlstedt	Communion	Kirk Jensen, Judy Davison
Linda/Gerry Berglin	Altar Guild	Betty/Dick Pittelkow
Bob Peschiutta, DeWayne Townsend, Marcea Mariani	Ushers	DeWayne Townsend, Ethan Townsend, Helen/Bob Norheim
Annie Hines/Kathy Nelson	Coffee Servers	Stephanie/Scott Cole
Chuck Jordan, Bob Peschiutta	Counters	Wayne Vetter, Lee Kampinen
	Closer	Deb Sodt

Financial Report	December 11	Year to date
Budget requirement	14,432.69	721,634.62
Budget Receipts	7,258.08	659,960.13
Refugee Resettlement	100.00	1,921.00
Opening Doors	4,952.87	340,676.29
World Hunger	60.00	6,639.68