



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

GOD KEEPS SPEAKING

Despite near record-low temperatures, the worship space was full for the children’s program on Sunday at 11:00. Through spoken and musical reflections on prophets, angels, magi, and shepherds, the kids showed us the way to Bethlehem, the place of Jesus’ birth. They did a wonderful job of preparing us on the last Sunday of Advent for our celebration of Christmas. Thank you, students of Godly Play and Trinity Village and teachers, for the love, faith, and joy you shared with us.

The section of the program about God’s prophets especially resonated with me on Sunday. One of the young people proclaimed:

God has always sent messengers to show the way. Prophets like Moses and Isaiah spoke God’s word to help God’s people understand the best way to live. God’s people did not always understand the important messages spoken through the prophets. Even today, with all the knowledge and wisdom of the greatest minds and scholars, we still don’t always completely agree on what God is telling us, but the important thing is that God keeps speaking, because God loves us so much!

God keeps speaking. God doesn’t give up on us because God loves us so much. This is an important message of Christmas, and one that I need to hear this year. The current problems of the world seem overwhelming—from a changing climate to violence in Syria to persistent xenophobia in our own nation. Not only can it all leave us feeling hopeless, but it might make our individual problems seem so small. Issues of personal health, finances, or family occupy our thoughts, but we may wonder what significance they hold relative to the big, global concerns of our day.

The Christmas story reminds us that God chooses to show up in unlikely places to be with us in our sorrow and fear and to bring us help and salvation. God was revealed among a poor family in a remote village that would have otherwise been lost to history. And it was all because God loves the world—all of us—so much. God is present in what seems insignificant. God is present in situations that seem hopeless. God keeps speaking and showing us immeasurable love.

The students concluded with this song based on Psalm 8, a beautiful prayer for our contemplation this Christmas.

*Who are we that you would love us?
Who are we that you would hold us in your hand?
Who are we that you would make us for each other,
To love and hold and try to understand?*

—Jay Carlson, Pastor

FIRST SUNDAY MUSINGS SUNDAY, JANUARY 1

Head to Himalayan at 12:15 p.m. with several other members for lunch and conversation. No sign up necessary. The group meets by the brightly-colored sign in the Community Room.

BOOK STUDY ON RACE IN MINNESOTA THURSDAY, JANUARY 19 AND MONDAY, JANUARY 30

All interested persons are invited to join us in reading and discussing the book, *A Good Time for the Truth: Race in Minnesota* (2016; Sun Yung Shin, editor). This is an inspiring and challenging anthology of stories and essays by a wide variety of indigenous people and people of color. Contact Deb Sodt for more information. Sign up in the Community Room.

CHRISTMAS DAY

On this Christmas morning the people of God gather to celebrate the birth of the Word made flesh, Christ our Lord. Luke recounts the familiar story of shepherds and angels; John’s gospel tells of the Word that dwells among us, full of grace and truth. The meaning of Christmas is made clear: the light shines in the darkness. It is in the liturgy that we encounter the Word made flesh—in the people of God gathered together as the body of Christ, and in the meal around the holy table. We go forth to be bearers of light as we proclaim this good news to all the ends of the earth.



READINGS
Isaiah 62:6-12
Psalm 97
Titus 3:4-7
Luke 2:[1-7] 8-20

Saturday, Christmas Eve
4:00 p.m. Worship Service with Holy Communion
10:00 p.m. Candlelight Service with Holy Communion
Sunday, Christmas Day
10:00 a.m. Worship Service with Holy Communion

ADULT FORUM

10:00 am—in the Library

DECEMBER 25 Christmas Day: No Adult Forum

JANUARY 1 Holy Trinity Germany Trip Participants

Last October, members and friends of Holy Trinity traveled to Germany and visited many of the sites that figured prominently in the events of the Reformation that led to the origins of the Protestant Church 500 years ago. Participants on that trip will share their reflections on that experience. Come and hear about the trail of the Reformation.

RACIAL JUSTICE 1.0 SMALL GROUPS

Holy Trinity is once again offering a discussion group on addressing racism. The group will be small and will meet six times over the course of three months, beginning in February. The purpose of the group 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 various 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. Indicate your interest by January 30. Once the group is formed, the participants will choose dates that work for them.

MINISTRY TO AND WITH THE AGING THURSDAYS, JANUARY 19, FEBRUARY 2, AND FEBRUARY 16

The Adult Education and Nurturing Relationships Committees are teaming up to hold a series of three “brown bag” lunches which will focus on ministry to and with the aging. Tentative themes for each session are “appropriate decision-making,” “negotiating family relationships,” and “where do we find our worth.” Sessions will run from noon to 1:30 p.m. Deb Sodt will moderate. Bring your own lunch. Sign up in the Community Room for one, two, or all three of the sessions, as your schedules allow.

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!**

SAVE THE DATE: SUNDAY, JANUARY 22—20s, 30s, 40s BRUNCH

Nicholas Ellison invites the 20s, 30s, 40s group to join him for brunch after the 11 a.m. service on Sunday, January 22. Sign up in the Community Room.

FARE FOR ALL WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11, 3:30-5:30 P.M.

Each month, Holy Trinity hosts Fare For All, an organization that buys fresh fruits, vegetables, and frozen meat in bulk to save buyers up to 40% off grocery store prices. Fare For All is community supported and open to everyone; the more people who shop, the better. Fare For All accepts cash, credit, debit, and EBT cards (no personal checks).

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

Snacks, games, and fun galore! Holy Trinity members and friends of all ages are invited to an evening of snacks, 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.

LONGFELLOW SCHOOL LULLABY PROJECT THURSDAY, JANUARY 12

For the second year in a row, Longfellow Alternative High School has partnered with VocalEssence to present Carnegie Hall's Lullaby Project here in the Twin Cities. The Lullaby Project offers pregnant and parenting teens an opportunity to create and share a personal lullaby for their child, with the help of artists working in communities across the country. Oakland-based songwriter and vocal activist, Melanie DeMore, VocalEssence Associate Conductor G. Phillip Shoultz III, and members of the Ensemble Singers have been working at Longfellow Alternative, leading lullaby creation sessions that have resulted in five new lullabies. We have the honor of hosting the premiere performance here at Holy Trinity. Admission is free. Performance from 6:00-7:00 p.m. with treats to follow.

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

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PARISH EVENTS December 25-31, 2016

Sunday	10:00 am	Worship Service with Holy Communion
	2:00 pm	Swahili Service
Monday		Office Closed

World Hunger in memory of Gerry Werth and Bev McGee by Margaret Peterson,
in memory of Bev McGee by Lois Eid, and by Ray Sanders
Special Gift in memory of Cory Bryan by Joy/Randy Nelson
Refugee Resettlement by Carol/John Kelly
Youth Program in memory of Gerry Werth by his family

NO FIRST FRIDAYS WITH FRIENDS/PARENTS' NIGHT OUT IN JANUARY

First Fridays with Friends and Parents' Night Out are canceled this month. We're still recovering from Christmas. Join us for game night Saturday, January 7.

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS DECEMBER 25, 2016

10:00 AM	
Crucifer	Jeff Weiss
Communion	Pam Blomgren, Lisa Martens
Altar Guild	
Ushers	Bob Peschiutta, Sally Kohlstedt, Deb Sodt
Counters	Donna Heyer, Annie Hines
Closer	Dennis Nordholm

	December 18	Year to date
Financial Report		
Budget requirement	14,432.69	736,067.31
Budget Receipts	20,254.28	680,214.41
Longfellow Alt. H.S.	50.00	810.00
Opening Doors	6,718.37	347,394.66
World Hunger	200.00	6,839.68