



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: 9:55 am • Ingrid Rasmussen and Hans Lee, Pastors

SERMON FROM JANUARY 7, 2018

Of all the Gospel-writers, Mark is the least likely to take the “scenic route” anywhere. He tells the story with swiftness and decisiveness, moving from point A to point B, wasting no time. He loves the word, “immediately”—it appears 28 times in the Gospel. Words and images are chosen with a particular purpose in mind. When Jesus comes out of the water, he sees the heavens “torn apart.” The same word for “torn apart”—schizo—is used by Mark at the end of story, at the crucifixion, when the temple curtain is torn in two.

Here, before the sweet little dove came down, before the voice spoke from the sky,... the heavens were “torn apart.” It doesn’t say, “A dove suddenly appeared out of nowhere, and came floating gently down upon the head of Jesus.” No, the heavens were torn apart, ripped, fractured... abruptly, purposefully, dramatically. Disruptive!

Mark wants us to know that God was determined to enter creation, and that God would disrupt in order to claim Jesus as God’s beloved. God tears open the heavens because God can no longer stay away. In Luke, Jesus first appears as a sweet baby. Here, Jesus appears and the first thing that happens is the heavens are ripped apart!

In the very beginning of Genesis, the Spirit (or wind) of God is present. It is the same Spirit that is present here at Jesus’ baptism. It is the same Spirit that is present in our baptism. In Genesis, God’s work is to bring order out of chaos, beginning with the division of day and night, light and darkness. Indeed, the entire creation story is to bring order—the stuff and the creatures God makes are meant to work in harmony. But sometimes they don’t work, and so God disrupts.

We live in a time of national disruption. Not all disruption is of God. Some disruption creates fear and leads to uncertainty about the future. The response to this kind of disruption just might be a counter-disruption—a peaceful, powerful disruption of resistance—that restores decency, kindness, humility, compassion, and justice as common values.

Jesus’ baptism is disruptive. God rips open the heavens to claim Jesus (there is a promise), the Spirit shows up, and then right away, the Spirit sends Jesus into the wilderness, where for forty days, he faces all kinds of temptation and discernment about his identity.

In spite of its appearance, there is disruption in our baptisms, too. The first part of baptism is death and drowning, and letting go of what is past. But then Baptism becomes beautiful and precious. Baptism signifies that we are forever connected to God who calls us and knows us by name, just as this same God called Jesus by name. But more specifically, this One called Jesus and calls us by the only name that matters: “Beloved.”

Our beautiful baptisms set us up for lives that are both challenging and joyful, that contain both dying and rising, order and disruption. Baptism is once, but the dying and rising happens every day as we are reminded by the presence of that same Spirit that when our lives are chaotic and hard and sometimes even unmanageable, that we wholly and completely belong to God, in Christ Jesus. The promise of grace, love, forgiveness, and acceptance is the disruption we need, over and over again.

—Pastor Hans Lee

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

All the baptized have a calling in God’s world. God calls not just the clergy but also the youngest child, like Samuel. The story of the calling of Nathanael plays with the idea of place. Nathanael initially dismisses Jesus because he comes from Nazareth. But where we come from isn’t important; it’s where—or rather whom—we come to. Jesus refers to the story of the vision of Jacob, who called the place of his vision “the house of God, and...the gate of heaven” (Gen. 28:17). Jesus says he himself is the place where Nathanael will meet God.



READINGS

1 Samuel 3:1-10 [11-20]
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
1 Corinthians 6:12-20
John 1:43-51

ADULT FORUM

10:00 am – in the Library

**JANUARY 14 “My Life Story, My Faith Story”
Connie Adams**

As part of our ongoing commitment to sharing our narratives of faith, today we hear from Connie Adams. Come and hear Connie tell her life story, her faith story.

**JANUARY 21 “Annual Meeting Preview”
Pastor Ingrid and Members of Church Council**

There is a lot of business to cover during our annual meeting, which will be held January 28 after the 11:00 a.m. worship service. Come and preview the meeting agenda with Pastor Ingrid and council representatives during the Adult Forum hour. Bring your questions!

TWIN CITIES RIC WORSHIP SERVICE SATURDAY, JAN. 20

It’s time for the annual Twin Cities RIC Worship Service—please join us! Come together with the other 42 RIC Lutheran congregations in the Twin Cities as we celebrate God’s inclusive love for people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. Saturday, January 20, 2018, 4:30 p.m., Edina Community Lutheran Church, 4113 West 54th St, Edina. Pastor Joseph Crippen will be preaching and a soup supper will follow the service.

LONGFELLOW HIGH SCHOOL MARKETPLACE

Please come to support students who are learning both design and marketing processes this quarter. They have constructed many unique items to sell. January 23 from 9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. and January 24 from 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. in Room 104 at Longfellow Alternative High School.

PARISH INFORMATION

WORSHIP LEADERS TRAINING SUNDAY, FEB. 25, 12-1:30 P.M.

If you would like to serve as a leader in worship, this training is for you. From noon-1:30 p.m. we'll offer training for ushers, crucifers, assisting ministers, communion servers, altar guild, and coffee servers. Veterans and novices are welcome! Sign up in the Community Room by February 18, so we know to look for you.

GAME NIGHT WITH NURTURING & YOUTH COMMITTEES

Saturday, January 20, 6:00-9:00 p.m.

Game night is an intergenerational activity open to all Holy Trinity members and friends. Confirmation sponsors and students (and families) are specially invited so you can spend casual, fun time together over snacks, laughter, and some fun competition playing table games. Please bring simple snack such as chips, crackers, cheese, veggies, or fruit to complement the pizza that will be served, and a favorite table game if you wish. You won't want to miss this lively, fun, and cozy intergenerational winter activity. Sign up in the Community Room by January 13.

LADIES' NIGHT OUT SUNDAY, JANUARY 14, 6:00 P.M.

All women of Holy Trinity are invited to Houlihan's Restaurant (6601 Lyndale Ave. S., Richfield) for conversation, support, and laughter on Sunday, January 14, beginning at 6:00 p.m.

ANNUAL MEETING SUNDAY, JANUARY 28, 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 114th year of God's ministry through Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. We will review committee goals, elect new council members, and approve the 2018 budget. The annual meeting is also an opportunity for us to check on our progress made toward congregational goals.

THANK YOU FROM ZOE MARTINEZ

Thank you for all who helped with the Longfellow Holiday Sharing Celebration. It was a great event filled with enthusiasm, smiles and gratitude. We brightened their day and their holidays. Thank you all for the time, effort, gifts, and the treats that were provided for the celebration. We are making a difference in the lives of these young moms and their families.

U.S. Postage Paid
Periodical

THE COMMUNITY CHURCH (USPS 777-060)
Published weekly by Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 2730 E 31 St.
Mpls MN 55406. Periodicals postage paid at St. Paul, Minnesota
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Community Church, c/o Holy
Trinity Lutheran Church, 2730 E. 31 Street, Mpls., MN 55406.

PARISH EVENTS January 14-20, 2018

Sunday	8:45 am	Worship Service with Holy Communion
	9:55 am	Sunday School
	10:00 am	Adult Forum
	11:00 am	Worship Service with Holy Communion
	12:15 pm	Racial Justice Film in Bartsch Room
Monday	2:00 pm	Swahili Service
		Office Closed for MLK Day
	6:00 pm	Executive Committee
Tuesday	7:00 pm	Church Council
	11:00 am	Worship Readings Discussion
Wednesday	10:00 am	Palestine Group
	6:00 pm	Children's Choir
	6:45 pm	Cantate!
	7:30 pm	Adult Choir
Saturday	6-9:00 pm	Game Night

Gifts to World Hunger by Carolyn Schurr, Clairann Hanson, in memory of loved ones by Paul Krumrei, Ray Sanders, Linda and Gerry Berglin

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS JANUARY 14, 2018

8:45 AM		11:00 AM	
Cathy Alpizar	Assisting Minister	Melanie Townsend	
Elena Alpizar, Peter Weiss	Acolytes	Ben Hanson, Will Hansen	
Jeff Weiss	Crucifer	David Krig	
Sally and David Kohlstedt	Communion	Kathy Hollander, Rod Johnson	
Lisa and Bruce Martens	Altar Guild	Roberta Shaw, Carol Lane	
Bob Peschiutta, Ginny and Chuck Jordan	Ushers	Chris Amundsen, George Christians, Lee Kampinen, Kathy Ohler	
Waddick Family	Coffee Servers	Sharon and Rob Englund	
Joyce Peterson, Pam Blomgren	Counters	Vicki Mann, John Sulzbach	
	Closer	Vicki Mann	

Financial Report	January 7	Year to date
Budget Receipts	34,268.10	34,268.10
Opening Doors	732.37	732.37
World Hunger	15.00	15.00