



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: 9:55 am • Ingrid Rasmussen and Angela Khabeb, Pastors

ADVENT CONFESSION

Christmas is coming. But, before we sing, “Glory to God in the highest,” we continue our Advent journey where we wait and prepare our hearts for the coming of our Savior. Growing up, I enjoyed an active and vibrant faith life. However, Advent was not part of my worship experience until I joined the Lutheran church in 1998. Even though I may connect with some worshipful elements of Advent, I struggle to fully appreciate the season. I understand Advent, I just experience a disconnect with the liturgical season and the world around me.

As temperatures grow colder, hearts grow warmer. As the ground begins to harden and freeze, hearts begin to awaken and rekindle. People open their spirits to kindness and generosity. It’s as if our society is drawn toward the Messiah in the manger. Yet, the church chooses to wait. As we wait, the narrow holiday window closes. We miss a time when our society celebrates humanity, loves neighbors, and welcomes strangers. The church waits while people with no religious connections are intentional about acting in selfless sacrifice. People go to their local grocery stores to purchase hundreds of dollars of food for complete strangers. Anonymous benefactors are paying off random people’s layaway accounts, college tuitions, and even strangers’ mortgages. They are following Christ’s commandment to love the neighbor—even if it is only for a short while.

This is about more than just consumerism. It’s about an opportunity for us to be relevant in the lives of people who would probably never even enter a church. The world around us is celebrating the newborn King. They are firmly (albeit briefly) clinging to the manger of the Christ child with both hands. Whether the secular world knows it or not, their kindness comes from the Holy Spirit moving in and through their hearts and hands. As these individuals share the love of Christ—even if by accident—we, the church, insist to wait. Then, finally, after we complete our Advent journey, we are allowed to celebrate Christmas for 12 days. But by this time, the world is dangerously close to returning to business as usual.

Believe me, I embrace our baptismal call to be countercultural. However, I wonder if the secular world might be acting on Christ’s commands, while the church is trailing four weeks behind? Yes, Advent is an ancient tradition of the church. Yes, there are worshipful elements of peacefulness and hope. But is it the most relevant way to be Christ in our broken world? Of course, we as Lutherans hold things in tension and often this tension is a gift. It is my prayer as we continue to negotiate the mysterious Advent terrain of “already” and “not yet” that we lean into the “already.” May we see Jesus all around us—moment by moment. May we recognize Christ in the kindness of strangers, the generosity of grace, the compassion of friends, and the abundance of joy. From my vantage point, we need more Merry Christmas—not less.

—Angela Khabeb, Pastor

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

If you would like to sponsor a poinsettia for the altar area at Christmas please call the church office at 612-729-8358. Cost is on a sliding scale from \$3-\$25. Donate according to your ability. The Christmas Eve bulletins will list the names of sponsors and the loved ones they are remembering or honoring.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



READINGS

Zephaniah 3:14-20
Isaiah 12:2-6
Philippians 4:4-7
Luke 3:7-18

ADULT FORUM

10:00 am

DECEMBER 16 “Advent Hymn Sing” in the Bartsch Room
—David Sims, Cantor

So many hymns, so little time! We’ll use the forum hour to get a few more Advent hymns in before the season is over. David will collect hymns for Advent around a particular theme—some familiar, some obscure, some brand new—for us to sing and think about together.

DECEMBER 23 Pastors Ingrid and Angela

Join Pastor Ingrid and Pastor Angela as they team up for today’s adult forum!

CHILDREN’S PROGRAM SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16, 11:00 A.M.

This Sunday at the the 11:00 a.m. worship service, our Godly Play and Trinity Village children will present a staged version of the South American folktale, *A Gift for the Christ Child*, as written by Linda Schlafer. The story revolves around two brothers who encounter trouble on their way to the village church to bring their family’s yearly Christmas offering. The presentation will feature music from the Latin American tradition, led by a group of Holy Trinity musicians. Our children would be so pleased to have you come and enter into the story with them. Please consider bringing a bag of coins which you may bring forward at the end of the children’s presentation to lay near the manger; just like the characters will in our story. This special offering will be donated to a local charitable organization.

SCHEDULE FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

Sunday, December 16, Third Sunday of Advent

Worship with Holy Communion at 8:45 a.m. in the Sanctuary
Hymn Sing at 10:00 a.m. during Adult Forum in the Bartsch Room
Worship led by Holy Trinity Children & Youth at 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Wednesday, December 19

Advent Supper from 5:30-6:45 p.m. in the Community Room**
Watching with Wonder for young children, 5:30-6:30 p.m., Bartsch Room
Book Discussion *I’m Still Here*, 2nd floor, next to the Library
Advent Evening Prayer at 7:00 p.m. in the Bartsch Room

Sunday, December 23, Fourth Sunday of Advent

Worship with Holy Communion at 8:45 & 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Monday, December 24, Christmas Eve

Worship with Holy Communion at 4:00 & 10:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Tuesday, December 25, Christmas Day

There are no services on Christmas Day

**Please sign up in the Community Room so we know how much food to order.

PARISH INFORMATION

LGBT GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP AT BRADSHAW

This ongoing support group is for those who have experienced a death, serious break-up, or divorce in a same sex relationship. The group offers support and understanding to cope and adjust to the loss of a relationship. The group meets the 1st Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at Bradshaw Minnehaha, 3131 Minnehaha Ave, Minneapolis. For more information call Tony or Roxie at 612-724-3621.

CLIMATE CHANGE WEBINARS DECEMBER 19

Join the Peace with Justice Committee to watch a one-hour post-event webinar following the COP24 Climate Change Conference on Wednesday, December 19. There are two opportunities to join a webinar. From 12:00-1:00 p.m., come to hear from J. Drake Hamilton of Fresh Energy. From 4:00-5:00 p.m., hear from four business leaders (Best Buy, Target, BWBR, and Fig & Farro) who are delegates from the Climate Generation Group. Both will be live-streamed in the sanctuary. For more information, contact Kathy Hollander at kath77holl77@gmail.com.

YEAR-END GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

Every year Holy Trinity anticipates and relies on a year-end increase in offerings that helps support the work of the church. This holiday season, please consider making an additional contribution to Holy Trinity or to our special appeals, Minneapolis Area Synod Racial Justice Organizer 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, 2018, to be counted as a 2018 donation. Thank you!**

SCHEDULE OF WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

The worship participant schedule for January-February will be created and sent on December 17. If you have requests for the upcoming schedule, please update your Ministry Scheduler Pro profile prior to December 17. Thank you.

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PARISH EVENTS December 16-22, 2018

Sunday	8:45 am	Worship Service with Holy Communion
	9:30 am	Confirmation
	9:55 am	Sunday School in Sanctuary
	10:00 am	Adult Forum: Hymn Sing in Bartsch Room
	11:00 am	Worship Service with Holy Communion
	12:00 pm	Gloria Ringers Rehearse
Monday	2:00 pm	Swahili Service
	6:00 pm	Executive Committee
Tuesday	7:00 pm	Church Council
	11:00 am	Worship Readings Discussion
Wednesday	5:30 pm	Advent Supper
	5:30 pm	<i>Watching with Wonder</i> for young children
	5:45 pm	<i>I'm Still Here</i> Book Discussion
	6:00 pm	Children's Choir
	6:30 pm	Cantate!
	7:00 pm	Advent Evening Prayer
	7:45 pm	Adult Choir
Thursday	8:00 am	Encore! at Turtle Bread

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS DECEMBER 16, 2018

8:45 AM	11:00 AM
Carol Masters	Assisting Minister Sharon Englund
Johnny Waddick, Amelia Waddick	Acolytes Maggie Weiss, Kayden Nordby
Lisa Martens	Crucifer Emily Davison
Jeff Olsen Biebighauser, DeWayne Townsend III	Communion Cori Gershon, Judy Davison
Anne Beschnett, Josh Becker	Altar Guild needed
Bob Peschiutta, Ginny and Chuck Jordan	Ushers Joshua Combs, Lee Kampinen, 2 more needed
Roberta Shaw, Dianne Mascher	Coffee Servers Ann White, Paul Rasmussen
Chuck Jordan, Pam Blomgren	Counters Scott Cole, Pam Kildahl
	Closer John Sulzbach

Financial Report	December 9	Year to date
Budget Requirements	15,051.92	737,544.23
Budget Receipts	9,131.15	669,416.43
Opening Doors	1,010.37	81,025.50
MAS Racial Justice Appeal	525.00	1,402.00
Refugee Resettlement	70.00	605.00
World Hunger	265.00	4,173.32

Disaster Relief by Stephanie/John Sulzbach
 World Hunger by Joyce/Don Besser, Sally/David Kohlstedt, and Misty Erickson/
 Michael Eull;
 Special gift in memory of Carol Saunders by Joyce Peterson