



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 Khabebe, Pastors

GOD NAMES ALL BELOVED

Sunday morning began as usual. I've made a sort of New Year's resolution to keep the four plants in my office alive as long as possible. I noticed that one in the window sill looked a little droopy. I grabbed the watering can. Something outside the window caught my eye. There was a man on the sidewalk outside our church. He was carrying a rather large sign with hateful, homophobic language. I must confess, my initial impulse was less than pastoral. Moving briskly toward the door, I met one of our parishioners who was also concerned about the protestor's presence. We informed Pastor Ingrid and she felt it was imperative to assemble a visible loving response. Just then, DeWayne and Marcea Townsend walked through the church doors. Pastor Ingrid commissioned DeWayne to serve as a loving presence. He stood next to the man to offer a kind word of welcome to people as they arrived for worship. Marcea got to work making large signs that read "You Are Loved" to be placed in front of the church.

Pastor Ingrid and I went outside and we were met with insults and accusations. Nevertheless, we invited him to worship and tried to offer the compassion of Christ. Pastor Ingrid suggested that we begin worship outside but she would "let me know." Worship time was quickly approaching, but Pastor Ingrid was still outside, shining her light and love. So, I invited the congregation to join her. She led us in the Thanksgiving for Baptism amid the protestor's shouts. But bravely, she continued. David Sims and Ann Schrooten led us in our singing. As we sang *This Little Light of Mine*, the January air became a little warmer. We returned to the sanctuary and continued worship.

Pastor Ingrid delivered a powerful sermon to remind us that:

[God] "continually saturates our lives with unconditional love... One might argue that this understanding of our own belovedness could cause us to turn us in on ourselves—causing us to care more about our sacredness than the sacredness of others. But if Luke's gospel is clear about anything, it is that God's promises are spoken for the whole world. Blessing for one doesn't mean less blessing for another. Love for one doesn't mean less love for another. Grace for one doesn't mean less grace for another. God's world is not a pie; it's a renewable resource. There is more than enough. We need not worry... God's love is for the baptized and for those who will never find themselves at the font. God's love is for the healthy and for the sick. God's love is for the rich and the poor. God's Love is for the people inside this sanctuary and for the man protesting outside on the street. God's love is for those who stand at the center of society and for those who are consistently pushed to the margins. Today we are reminded that "Beloved" is the name given to all, without exception. And for this we say thanks be to God!"

Siblings in Christ, I cannot overstate how proud I am to belong to a congregation who is dedicated to the body of Christ and willing to put their faith into action. I came across a post on social media from Katie Murray. With permission, I share her heartfelt reflection from yesterday:

When you show up at church and the community is gathered on the steps, your mind first runs through whether you missed something in the newsletter or the liturgical calendar. Then you see the protester using God's words of love as a weapon, expressing condemnation for the LGBTQ community that your church embraces and you realize that the gathering on the steps is actually your community's response to this individual. You start to cry when you realize that the people you worship with are standing outside singing, putting love and light into the world in response to this attempt to weaponize the gospel. And when you try to explain to your kids why that person is there, you reinforce that our belief in God is a belief in love. Period. And you feel like that protester in fact is a demonstration that your community is doing something right.

Indeed, God's love is for everyone. No. Exceptions.

—Angela Khabebe, Pastor

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY



READINGS
Isaiah 62:1-5
Psalm 36:5-10
1 Corinthians 12:1-11
John 2:1-11

ADULT FORUM
10:00 am

JANUARY 20 "Annual Meeting Preview" Pastors and Council Members

There is a lot of business to cover during our annual meeting, which will be held January 27 after the 11:00 a.m. worship service. Come and preview the meeting agenda with Pastor Ingrid, Pastor Angela, and council representatives during the adult forum hour. Bring your questions!

JANUARY 27 "Committee and Working Group Fair" Meghan Olsen Biebighauser, Coordinator

Join us to learn about all of the various committees and working groups that are active at Holy Trinity. Representatives from standing committees and issue-based working groups will be tabling in the Community Room, ready to welcome you and fill you in on what they've been up to. Committees and working groups come in a variety of working styles and manage their own schedules, which vary, so if you're considering taking up a new role in the new year OR if you just want to hear about the latest ways that this congregation is following the Spirit's lead, join us!

CRUCIFERS AND ALTAR GUILD HELP NEEDED

Please consider helping in worship as a crucifer or with altar guild. There is a particular need for the 8:45 a.m. service. Call the office or talk to a pastor if you are available to serve.

10TH ANNUAL PANCAKE BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER

For Summer Youth Trips to Puerto Rico and Wilderness Canoe Base!
Sunday, February 10, 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Tickets can be purchased at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, Jan. 27.

Most food historians say that the earliest pancake-like dish, known as *Alita Dolcia* ("another sweet" in Latin), was made by Romans in the 1st century CE from milk, flour, egg, and spices. They were sold hot from vendors on the corners of the new market squares. Rather than slathering them in syrup, they'd use honey to sweeten their pancakes.



PARISH INFORMATION

MEDITERRANEAN LUNCH AND PALESTINE FILM SEGMENTS

On Sunday, January 20, at 12:15 p.m., enjoy a Mediterranean lunch and watch a selection of movie segments on Palestine and the conflict with Israel. *Please be aware that the segments will contain some scenes of violence.* Following the movies, the Palestine/Israel team will offer time for a discussion and reflections. The event will take place in the Bartsch Room. Freewill offering will be taken.

ANNUAL MEETING SUNDAY, JANUARY 27, 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 115th year of God's ministry through Holy Trinity Lutheran Church.

PARENTS' NIGHT OUT FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 6:00-8:00 P.M.

Adults and youth work together caring for HTLC children while their parents go "out" (or stay "in") from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Sign up in the Community Room to help with childcare or to save a spot for your kids in the nursery. Volunteers must complete a background check through Holy Trinity.

FIRST FRIDAYS WITH FRIENDS FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 6:00 P.M.

Hey, 20s, 30s, 40s group! Mark your calendars for a gathering that, while not yet planned, is sure to be promising.

PUBLICATION REQUEST FORM ON WEBSITE

A new link on the Holy Trinity Website allows you to submit a request for an announcement for publication in the Community Church Newsletter, the Sunday bulletin, or both. Go to htlcmpls.org and click on "Downloads."

MEALS ON WHEELS DELIVERY FEBRUARY 4-8

Holy Trinity will be delivering meals for South Minneapolis Meals on Wheels the week of February 4-8. Volunteers are needed to deliver meals for 1-5 days of the week. Meals are picked up at Nokomis Square delivery area, 35th Ave. S. and 50th St., at 11:15 a.m. Delivery takes about 1 hour. Sign up in the Community Room or contact Mary Engen.

CONCERNING PEOPLE

A celebration in honor of **Lyle Steinfeldt's** 80th birthday will be held at Holy Trinity on Saturday, January 19, beginning at 2:00 p.m.

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PARISH EVENTS January 20-26, 2019

| | | |
|--------------|--------------|---|
| Sunday | | Confirmation Retreat |
| | 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 |
| | 12:30 pm | Palestine Lunch and Movie |
| 1:30-9:00 pm | | <i>Do Justice</i> Retreat |
| | 2:00 pm | Swahili Service |
| Monday | | Martin Luther King, Jr. Day/Office Closed |
| | | Confirmation Students Return |
| Tuesday | 11:00 am | Worship Readings Discussion |
| | 5:30 pm | Racial Justice Group |
| | 6:00 pm | Executive Committee |
| | 6:30 pm | Children/Family Committee |
| | 6:30 pm | Book Study <i>The Me I Want to Be</i> |
| Wednesday | 7:00 pm | Council |
| | 5:30 pm | Choir Supper |
| | 5:30-7:30 pm | Library Open |
| | 6:00 pm | Children's Choir |
| | 6:45 pm | Cantate! |
| | 7:30 pm | Adult Choir |

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS JANUARY 20, 2019

| 8:45 AM | 11:00 AM |
|---|-------------------------|
| Rick Liedholm | Paul Chindvall |
| Treva Russell, Rosie Russell | Asha Olson, Peter Weiss |
| needed | Crucifer |
| Andrea Martin, Don Besser | Jeff Olsen Biebighauser |
| Communion | Vicki and Mike Mann |
| Anne Beschnett, Josh Becker | Altar Guild |
| Libby and Keith Olstad | |
| Bev and Bob Peschiutta, Chris Engen | Ushers |
| Deb Sodt, Kathy Hollander, Rod Johnson, Soren Kung | |
| Luann and Josiah Kibira | Coffee Servers |
| Margaret Peterson, Liz Kelley | |
| Chris Engen, Donna Heyer | Counters |
| Scott Cole, Vicki Mann | |
| Closer | Deb Sodt |

| Financial Report | January 13 | Year to date |
|----------------------|------------|--------------|
| Budget Receipts | 6,244.33 | 58,050.31 |
| Opening Doors | 637.87 | 705.37 |
| Refugee Resettlement | 20.00 | 20.00 |
| World Hunger | 20.00 | 25.00 |