



# THE COMMUNITY CHURCH

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Ingrid C. A. Rasmussen, Angela T. Khabebe, and Doug Mork, Pastors

## BELONGING TO ONE ANOTHER

Dear Holy Trinity,

I'm writing this the day after the election. By the time you read it, I suspect that a lot will have changed. Or at least I hope so. As I watch states turn colors on the electoral map, I wonder aloud: What does it mean to belong? What does it mean to belong to one another?

As I reflect on these questions in this tumultuous time in our nation and in the world, I realize that belonging is more complex than I previously realized. It is multidimensional—it involves lament for past wrongdoing; resilience for the hard work of relationship; understanding that moves us from micro-aggressions to micro-inclusions; and celebration when we catch glimpses of the peace, hope, and love that we are promised.

Knowing that COVID-19 will keep us physically separated this year, the worship staff and I imagined something new. We hope this [Advent] box reminds you that you belong—to God and to one another. From candles and bread, to prayers and poems, to piñatas and dancin' music, we pray that Advent gives you space and time to lament, to wonder, to change, and to celebrate.

At the end of a long year and at the start of a new church year, it's good to remember that we belong to God and that nothing can separate us from that truth. Emmanuel, God with us, has made a home in our hearts, in our communities, in our nation, in our world, and in all of creation. Even now, the cries of the Christ child are awakening us, calling us, and shaping us into something new.

With warmth and gratitude,  
Ingrid Rasmussen, pastor



P.S. If you share photos of your Advent box on social media, please use the hashtag #htlcadvent so that we can see them!

## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### READINGS

Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13;  
2 Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8

### ADULT FORUM

**\*NEW TIME DURING ADVENT: WEDNESDAY, 7:30 PM\***

Login at [zoom.us](https://zoom.us) or call 312-626-6799 or click [here](#)  
Meeting ID: 863 5329 7771 / Password: 693691

#### DECEMBER 2 "Social Media"

**Karleigh Crepin and Mollie Varpness**

Join our Luther Seminary student-learners for tonight's adult forum. They will be taking a deep dive into our Advent theme of "Belonging" by discussing how they experience belonging through social media (e.g., Facebook, TikTok) and how they use it in a socially distant world.

#### DECEMBER 9 Adult Forum with Matt Skinner, Part 1

Join Luther Seminary's Matt Skinner for tonight's adult forum—the first in a two-part series. Professor Skinner will be looking at our Advent theme of "Belonging" through the lens of Acts 10:1-11:18. This session will focus on the Acts story and about what it means that "God shows no partiality."

#### DECEMBER 16 Adult Forum with Matt Skinner, Part 2

Join Luther Seminary's Matt Skinner for this adult forum—the second in a two-part series. Professor Skinner will be looking at our Advent theme of "Belonging" through the lens of Acts 10:1-11:18. The first session focused on the Acts story and about what it means that "God shows no partiality." This session will be discussion-based, exploring implications for our understanding of belonging today.

\*\*The sessions will be recorded and available the following day.

### MEALS ON WHEELS DELIVERY DECEMBER 14-18

Holy Trinity is scheduled to deliver meals for South Minneapolis Meals on Wheels the week of Dec. 14-18. Volunteers are needed to deliver 1 to 5 days. Pick up meals at Nokomis Square Condominiums, 35th Ave. S. and 50th St., at 11:15 a.m. Delivery takes between 1-1½ hrs. Please respond to Mary Engen at [engenmary@yahoo.com](mailto:engenmary@yahoo.com). If you have not delivered before, Mary will arrange for you to follow another driver to learn the procedures.

### BIG MEETING NIGHTS DECEMBER 3 AND 8

Committee chairs: please email Pam Wetterlund ([pwetterlund@htlcmpls.org](mailto:pwetterlund@htlcmpls.org)) to let her know if your committee plans to meet this month and which night (Thursday, December 3, or Tuesday, December 8) you plan to meet.

## PARISH INFORMATION

### PIÑATAS WITH DEACON DAVID TUESDAYS, DEC. 1, 8, & 15

We will craft piñatas together on Tuesdays, December 1, 8, and 15, from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. The Zoom sessions will be live for those who can make it and recorded for those who cannot. Instructions are included on page 28 of the Advent booklet so that everyone knows what to expect and can plan accordingly.

One of the ways Christian leaders taught the faith in the 1400s “New Spain” was by using physical objects such as the piñata. They “Christianized” a tradition that had been practiced in honor of the god Huitzilopochtli and made it into a catechism tool to be used during the season of Advent, leading up to the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ.

Piñatas were made using clay pots and were filled with all sorts of goodies. They were decorated with seven cones jutting out from the pots and resembled a star, like the one that shone above Bethlehem. The seven points also represented the deadly sins against which Christians needed to fight, and so people were given sticks with which to break the piñatas in their struggle against sin. When the piñatas would break, the treats would spill out and be enjoyed—symbolizing a Christian’s heavenly reward after a lifetime of keeping the faith.

As we journey together through Advent, we will be making piñatas together and learning more about our faith. You will be able to join three live Zoom sessions, which will include crafting the piñatas and learning more about our faith! Everyone is encouraged to join, especially those who are in Confirmation classes. For those who cannot attend the live Zoom sessions, a recorded video of the session will be sent to you via email.

May this time of waiting in preparation bring joy, peace, good health, and goodness into your lives!

To join the session, click [here](#), login to Zoom.us, or dial 312-626-6799, and enter Meeting ID: 819 9097 3231/Passcode: 253344.

—Deacon David Rojas Martínez

### ADVENT EVENING PRAYER SERVICES BEGIN THIS WEEK

Each Wednesday during Advent (December 2, 9, 16), you’ll receive a link via email for a recorded worship service of Holden Evening Prayer. This year, Holden will be accompanied by slides of astronomical images—magnificent and colorful photographs of planets, moons, star clusters, nebulas, comets, and galaxies. The stunning universe to which we belong is ever-changing, with light and darkness interspersed, and with clouds of gas and dust glowing in, and sometimes obscuring parts of, the night sky. We’ll see panoramic views caught by the Hubble telescope of hundreds of thousands of stars in colorful clusters, vistas of planets, sights of the Milky Way streaming above the forest, and a full moon rising in the desert.

In the Holden Evening Hymn we sing, “You who made the heaven’s splendor, every dancing star of night, make us shine with gentle justice, let us each reflect your light.” We’re invited to watch and wait, sing, pray, breathe, and reflect the light of the One who has been there from the beginning.

### WORSHIP LINK FOR SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29

The worship video for Sunday, November 29, can be found here: <https://vimeo.com/484957076>. We invite you to find bread or crackers, wine or grape juice (or any morsel of food and sip of liquid) in your house and celebrate Holy Communion with us.

### ADULT FORUM RECORDING FROM NOVEMBER 29

The adult forum from Sunday, November 29, can be viewed [here](#).

### OLIVE OIL AVAILABLE

Each year, the Lutheran World Federation Jerusalem Program, located on the Mount of Olives in East Jerusalem, receives a special blessing. After harvesting, olives from the 800 trees on the Lutheran World Federation property are pressed into olive oil. Some of the oil is used in the Augusta Victoria Hospital kitchen to feed patients, family members, and staff. The rest is used in kitchens around the world by friends and visitors of the LWF. For more information see: <https://jerusalem.lutheranworld.org/content/olive-oil-91>.

You can purchase 250ml bottles of this oil for \$15 each. Please contact Bob Brose ([bob@qbjnet.com](mailto:bob@qbjnet.com)) to arrange for drop off or pickup. This makes a nice Christmas gift!

### COMMUNITIES OF CALLING: “FELLOWSHIP AROUND THE TABLE”

The “Fellowship Around the Table” group met once (so far) in early October. There are 6 of us, and we spent the time we had together telling our stories—life stories, including what brought us to Holy Trinity. It was interesting, and we learned some more about each other in the process! Our next dinner will be held in December/January if we can come up with a good date for all of us. We hope to have conversations about what nurtures people and how we bridge gaps.

—submitted by Stephanie Cole

### FARE FOR ALL WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2:30-5:30 P.M.

Fare For All will be at Holy Trinity on Wednesday, December 9, from 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. This month’s holiday pack includes an 8-10 lb. Jennie-O Turkey, chicken tenderloins, sweet corn, bacon wrapped pork tenderloin, Tuscan meatballs, and chocolate mint cheesecake, all for \$30. Fare For All will be using a drive-through delivery method. Volunteers are needed to help load food into cars. Contact Julie Cahoy ([jtcahoy@gmail.com](mailto:jtcahoy@gmail.com)) if you are able to help.

### CONCERNING PEOPLE

**Please don’t hesitate to contact us with pastoral care emergencies** (Church Office: 612.729.8358; Pastor Ingrid: 612.875.6679; Pastor Doug: 612.310.5752). We will do our best to care for you from a distance.

**Do you need help with an errand?** Please let us know. [Simply click here and fill out the form](#) or call the church office. Someone will contact you within 48 hours.