



THE COMMUNITY CHURCH

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

THANK YOU NOTES

(to those who sent donations for the Justice Fund)

*We speak his name: George... I write,
though I flunk writing in Fourth Grade
and play hooky with my bad-boy boy-friend.
"Write me a note!" I beg Mom, weeping,
she does and it doesn't work.
We are not to be together, ever.*

*Dear Elizabeth, Dear Trent, Dear Keisha...
So many. Who are they? How did they
hear? In 500 cities, still rising?*

*Slow cursive takes me back,
when did we start to train our hands
index finger curled just so,
did my thumbnail always press
so hard into opposite flesh?
We gratefully acknowledge...*

*my teacher Miss Nettleton,
her stinging words, my thin skin,
"look at your mother's
how pretty she writes."*

*Strange I am writing now.
Thank you for being our partners...
that's if they are a couple. I'm not.
Not in Fourth Grade any more
though the bullies made us go down
to be married, down the boys'-side slide—*

*Not a couple now, but it's only dementia
He has not death. Not to be together a grief.
How the heart in grief will seize
on any task ... to the Justice Fund...
try to squeeze loops small enough
to the end of the line, holding
my breath to the end of the line.*

*Your loving support...
Mom wrote pretty letters, me not,
too much a hurry, get it all down before...
enables us... Slow down, turn the letters over
like prayer beads rounded, spilled
from my fingers, send them,
.... be generous with neighbors...
Break briefly, and join one letter to next
praying for them in their rooms
maybe praying for us ...as we pray for
and work toward a more...
hard to fit the U and I carefully
together, joined like partners
before the t... equitable
tomorrow.*

By Carol Masters

FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

READINGS

Isaiah 61:10-62:3; Psalm 148;
Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40

ADULT FORUM

SUNDAYS, 9:30 A.M.

Login at zoom.us or call 312-626-6799 or click [here](#)
Meeting ID: 858 5687 1594 / Password: 317879

To view the adult forum from Sunday, December 20, click
<https://vimeo.com/493411084>

DECEMBER 27 "Blue Christmas" Karleigh Crepin

Karleigh will host a "Longest Night" service. This will be a time for reflection and healing for anyone who doesn't feel holly or jolly during the holiday season. There will be a candle lighting portion during the service so if you have a candle please bring it along. All are welcome!

JANUARY 3 "Minnesota Sanctuary Church Coalition" Daniel Romero

Daniel Romero, social worker with Interfaith Coalition on Immigration, the Minnesota Immigrant Rights Action Committee and the United Church of Christ Statewide Immigration Team will present.

WORSHIP LINK FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20

The worship video for Sunday, December 20, can be found here: <https://vimeo.com/492873360>. 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.

MESSAGE FROM DEACON DAVID

All Children, Youth, and Family activities are paused during Christmastide. There will be no video resources for Sunday, December 27, or Sunday, January 3. We are so grateful for the teachers who have been keeping us connected these past few months and look forward to starting again in the new year during Epiphany!

CALVARY FOOD SHELF NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

Calvary Lutheran Church at 39th and Chicago currently serves 160+ families (600-700 individuals) per week. They need volunteers to help this week and next. They have hired staff, but are reliant on volunteers. If you have any questions, contact volunteer coordinator, Judi Linder (foodshelf@clchurch.org). Click signupgenius.com/go/9040549aea722aaf85-calvary to volunteer.

PARISH INFORMATION

PIÑATAS WITH DEACON DAVID

If you wish to make a piñata with Deacon David, you can view the recorded tutorials from the past three weeks.

To view the *first* session from December 1, click [here](#). To view the *second* session from December 8, click [here](#). To view the *third* and final session from December 15, click [here](#).

ADVENT (EVENING) PRAYER SERVICE

Last Wednesday was our final Advent Wednesday worship service. To view the worship service of Holden Evening Prayer with a reflection by Lydia Belusa-Niesen and Linnea Krig, click here: <https://vimeo.com/491734445>.

2021 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Offering envelopes for 2021 will be mailed directly to your home each quarter, unless you opted out when you submitted a pledge. This allows us to update the envelope list more frequently. If you receive offering envelopes but decide you don't want them in the future, please notify Pam in the office (pwetterlund@htlcmpls.org).

COMMUNITIES OF CALLING REFLECTION BY ROBERTA SHAW

As a part of the Communities of Calling small group initiative this fall, one of the groups meets weekly by Zoom to reflect on two books: *Women, Earth, and Creator Spirit* by Elizabeth Johnson and *Christ of the Celts* by J. Philip Newell. The authors lead us into big questions. What have church and society lost by exploiting Earth, marginalizing the feminine, and ignoring the vivifying, surprising work of Creator Spirit? How has a system of hierarchical dualism, buttressed by a belief in original sin and a misunderstanding of grace, thwarted our ability to see ourselves as truly one with Earth and all her creatures, with each other, and with God? As we share with each other our personal and corporate (including Holy Trinity) stories, we ponder this: if we *truly* grasped that oneness and recognized the ongoing work of Creator Spirit, how would our personal spiritual lives and our work for justice be changed and energized? We don't have all the answers but are enjoying the quest.

NEW YEAR'S EVE WITH LONGFELLOW RISING

Celebrate New Year's Eve with Longfellow Rising! Join us for a free virtual New Year's Eve celebration on December 31 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Enjoy free curry bowls from Curry in a Hurry (sponsored by Holy Trinity Lutheran Church's Communities of Calling Grant), sweet treats from Geek Love Cafe, and a Zoom program showcasing live music and poetry from local artists curated by Pangea World Theater. Registration is limited to 250 households. Click [here](#) to register.

YEAR-END GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

Every year Holy Trinity anticipates and relies on a year-end increase in offerings that helps support the ministry of this church. This Christmas season, please consider making an additional contribution to Holy Trinity, or to our special appeals, ELCA World Hunger, Seminary Support Fund, and Wilderness Canoe Base. To donate from your bank account online, click [here](#). To donate with a credit card, click [here](#). **Contributions must be received or postmarked by December 31, 2020, to be counted as a 2020 donation. Thank you!**

JOHNNY BREAD FOR COMMUNION ON CHRISTMAS EVE

It's time to bake your communion bread for Christmas Eve! Thousands of St. John's University students have shared a similar experience for more than a century. Brother William Baldus from Germany began making the dark wheat bread in a hearth oven made out of brick around 1880.

The first monks were from Bavaria and were accustomed to eating rye bread. At the time, wheat bread was considered to be for royalty. Wheat was very popular in America, so the university began making both rye and wheat bread. Brother Baldus decided to start combining the rye and wheat bread into one loaf. The recipe called for one part rye flour to four parts wheat.

Kenneth Jones, author of *The Loaf That Became A Legend*, says Brother Baldus decided to reinvent St. John's bread. "I have no idea why he started that combination. Maybe he was tired of doing two different kinds of bread, or he was just an inventive guy and decided to combine it—but people really liked it."

The first loaves were approximately 18 inches long and 8 inches thick. Students ate bread at every meal. St. John's students ate anywhere from half of a loaf to a loaf of bread daily. Jones says, "It became a part of their lives. It felt like St. John's to them."

In the 1950s, the university decided to turn the bread into a franchise and sell it throughout the country. Chemist Dr. Betty Sullivan developed a mix that was sold nationwide. From 1959 to 1960, St. John's sold about 56,000 mixes that netted them about \$562,000.

A group of Franciscan nuns took over the bread operation in 1913 and continued it until the 1950s. Since then, it has been a job led solely by St. John's students.

Today Johnny Bread is made nearly the same way it was back in the late 1800s and continues to be served to students with each meal.

CONCERNING PEOPLE

Please don't hesitate to contact us with pastoral care emergencies (Pastor Ingrid: 612.875.6679; Pastor Angela: 612.248.9121; Pastor Doug: 612.310.5752). We will do our best to care for you from a distance.

**HOLY TRINITY PASTORS AND STAFF
WISH YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES
A BLESSED CHRISTMAS!**