



November 29, 2006

*Each ending brings a new beginning.  
As one church year merges into another  
we welcome the chance to begin anew,  
to welcome the holy into our lives,  
and to become more aware of our deepest hopes, prayers and yearnings—  
the very gift of Advent.*

### **Tonight 7 pm: Contemplative Eucharist**

Assisting Minister: needed; Lector: Karol Weigelt

### **Attendance Last Sunday**

8:30 am = 17 10:30 am = 94

## **New Announcements**

### **Torture Is a Moral Issue**

**Bishop Landahl of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod has endorsed this campaign.  
Your Help is Needed to Reach 50,000 Endorsements of the Statement of Conscience of the  
National Religious Campaign Against Torture by January 15, 2007**

More than ten thousand people of faith have endorsed "Torture is a Moral Issue" - the Statement of Conscience of the National Religious Campaign Against Torture (see below). It would be a powerful witness if NRCAT reached 50,000 endorsers of the Statement of Conscience by January 15, 2007. Please contact at least five people you know to ask them to endorse - family members, friends, and members of your congregation.

Give them a copy of "Torture is a Moral Issue" and ask them to endorse. They can do so online at [www.nrcat.org/statement.aspx](http://www.nrcat.org/statement.aspx). You can either give them the copy of this letter or print out an individual form at [www.nrcat.org/documents/statement\\_individual\\_endorser.pdf](http://www.nrcat.org/documents/statement_individual_endorser.pdf).

*The Statement of Conscience  
National Religious Campaign Against Torture  
**TORTURE IS A MORAL ISSUE***

*Torture violates the basic dignity of the human person that all religions, in their highest ideals, hold dear. It degrades everyone involved - policy-makers, perpetrators and victims. It contradicts our nation's most cherished values. Any policies that permit torture and inhumane treatment are shocking and morally intolerable.*

*Nothing less is at stake in the torture abuse crisis than the soul of our nation. What does it signify if torture is condemned in word but allowed in deed? Let America abolish torture now-without exceptions.*

### **Lakeview Action Coalition: Homeless Youth Action**

LAC and our members and allies have been collecting documentation of youth incidents with the Police for the last several years – ranging from verbal harassment to actual physical assault.

We have had many interactions with police officials to attempt to stop harassment of youth by police in our community, from Superintendent Cline on down. Our most recent attempt was a

forum with the local police sergeants on July 10<sup>th</sup>, but the only direct results of that has been increased harassment of youth and programs that serve the youth. The incident involving the young man who was beaten up at Beat the Heat, whose court case we are following, happened right after this forum.

The Homeless Youth Task Force has decided to plan an action for the evening of Tuesday, December 5<sup>th</sup>. We have 4 goals for this action:

- Act in solidarity with the homeless youth in the community
- Mobilize our youth allies
- Send a message to the police that the community backs homeless youth
- Gain public attention in a time when there is a focus on issues of police abuse

The main theme for this event is "Protect Homeless Youth, Stop the Abuse." Our turnout goal is 200. Our plan is to release a report that will outline the results of our documentation, the work we have done with the police on this issue, the results of other reports on police harassment in Chicago (like the report done by Amnesty International), and our recommendations for improvement. We will hold a press conference to release our report and then will have a march through the community to show our solidarity with the youth in the community.

This action will take place on Tuesday December 5<sup>th</sup>, from 6 pm – 7:30 starting at Lakeview Presbyterian Church. We will be contacting you all, especially the Youth Allies, because we will need big turnout for this event.

## 2007 Generosity Commitments

If you've not yet returned your 2007 commitments, please bring them with to worship or return them to the church office as soon as possible.

## Next Sunday: First Sunday in Advent

*Like an expectant mother, the church in Advent prepares for an arrival: we anticipate the celebration of Jesus' birth and look forward to Christ's coming again at the end of history. But here and now -- in scripture and preaching, in water and bread and wine -- God comes to us.*

### Next Sunday's Scriptures

Jeremiah 33:14–16

Psalms 25:1–10

*To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul. (Ps. 25:1)*

1 Thessalonians 3:9–13

Luke 21:25–36

### Adult Forum at 9:30 am – Upstairs, St. Mark's Room

December 3 – **GIFTS OF THE SEASON** Advent and Christmas are a time to both give and receive gifts. We have been told that it is more blessed to give than to receive; but receiving completes the circle of love. Thus, it is as important to receive as it is to give. As a spiritual director, Pr. Jack Finney often hears people say they believe God loves them unconditionally with their heads, but not with their hearts, in the cells of their bodies, and in the way they live. Pastor Finney has put together some practices for receiving God's love to help us continue to grow into receiving and embodying God's wonderful gift of Love for us.

### Serving Next Sunday

Presiding Minister  
Minister of Music

Pr. Craig M. Mueller  
David R. Brackley

**8:30 am**

Assisting Minister

Seminarian Sarah Semmler

Lectors	Amy Wulfestieg and Emily Snyder
Usher	Britt Johnson
<b>10:30 am</b>	
Assisting Minister	Seminarian Jonathan Vehar
Crucifer	Seminarian Kirsten Fryer
Communion Assistants	Pr. Michelle L. Miller, Aana Vigen and Alison Strickler
Lectors	Joel Cruz and Mark Avery
Ushers	Drew Knobloch and Norm Kaiser
Greeters	Wendy and Chris Stelter
Sacristan	Mitchell Kittlaus
Altar Preparation	Richard Campbell
Nursery Attendants	Tim Peterson and Amy Cooper
Coffee Hospitality Hosts	Ken Duckmann and Becki Fiegel

## Next Week at Holy Trinity

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3 -- *First Sunday in Advent*

- 8:30 am Holy Eucharist (Nave)
- 9:20 am Choir Rehearsal (Annunciation Room)
- 9:30 am Sunday School (Passavant Hall)
- 9:30 am Adult Forum: Gifts of the Season
- 10:30 am Holy Eucharist (Nave)
- 4:00 pm Advent Family Potluck (Passavant Hall)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 4

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6

- 7:00 pm Advent Vespers (Nave)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10 -- *Second Sunday in Advent*

- 8:30 am Holy Eucharist (Nave)
- 9:20 am Choir Rehearsal (Nave)
- 9:30 am Sunday School (Passavant Hall)
- 9:30 am Adult Forum: Poems of the Season
- 10:30 am Holy Eucharist (Nave)

### THIS WEEK'S COMMEMORATIONS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2006 -- *Francis Xavier, missionary to Asia, died 1552*

A native of the Basque region of Spain, Xavier became a missionary to India, Southeast Asia, Japan, and the Philippines. He also helped to found the Society of Jesus (Jesuits).

MONDAY, DECEMBER 4 -- *John of Damascus, theologian and hymnwriter, died around 749*

A monk in an abbey near Jerusalem, John wrote many hymns as well as theological works. One of his works, *The Fount of Wisdom*, remained influential for centuries.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6 -- *Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, died around 342*

Little is known about Nicholas, except that he was a bishop in present-day Turkey. According to legend, he was famous for his giving to the poor, and so has become a symbol of anonymous gift-giving.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7 -- *Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, died 397*

While a governor of northern Italy, Ambrose was elected bishop of Milan on the same day he was baptized. He was a famous preacher, a writer of hymns we still sing today, and helped lead St. Augustine to faith.

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2006 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #.

### **In Our Prayers**

Those in need of God's special care: Our soldiers in and the people of Iraq; Pr. Bradley Schmeling & St. John's Lutheran Church; The family of Amelia Wiatr who mourn the death of her grandfather, John S. Wiatr; Corey Davison's mother, Cheryl Lanphere; Jane Doyle's father, Bob Doyle; Amy Fanale's mother, Sylvia Somera; Michael Musgrave's mother, Betty Musgrave; Tim Peterson's mother, Carol Peterson; Steve Dubuque's sister, Meg Liazos; Dorothy Klefstad's grandson, Erik; Judy Mayers, Charlie MacDonald-Zwoyer, Helen Rabens, Jerry Snow and Edith Stevenson.

Our bishops, Mark and Paul; our pastors, Craig and Michelle; our Congregation Council and leaders. Our companion synod, the Central Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Southern Africa, and their bishop, the Right Reverend Ndanganeni P. Phaswana. Interfaith Refugee and Immigration Ministries; Lakeview Action Coalition; The Night Ministry; Holy Family Ministries; Lakeview Pantry; Christian Peacemaker Teams, Reformation Lutheran Church (Southside); Metro Chicago Synod Anti-Racism Team (Barbara Wahler and Ken Duckmann are members.)

Those who celebrate: David Leach and Lisa Stang who celebrate their birthdays this week.

### **BIRTHDAYS:**

12/06 David Leach

12/11 Lisa Stang

### **BAPTISMS**

None this week

### **ANNIVERSARIES:**

None this month

## **Ways You Can Help**

### **Hospitality Team**

We are looking for a few people to become part of the **HTLC Hospitality Team** which will be responsible for making coffee and setting out supplies for the social time following worship. Like those who are worship assistants or nursery volunteers, the people on the Hospitality Team will be assigned dates to host coffee hour. Its simple...no baking, cooking or shopping required. All supplies will be provided by the church; you simply set-up and clean-up about once every two months. Talk with Pastor Michelle Miller if you are interested or send an e-mail to [mmiller@htchicago.org](mailto:mmiller@htchicago.org)

### **Do you enjoy cooking and sharing hospitality with others?**

If so, please consider volunteering for the meals hospitality ministry of HTLC. This small group of people provides meals to families when a new baby is welcomed into the home or to individuals during a time of illness. Pastor Michelle Miller coordinates the dates for meal delivery and each person prepares one simple meal and delivers it to the designated family. It is usually not more than once per month on average that the volunteers are contacted for participation. So if you like to cook and would like to share your gift with others in a meaningful way, please contact Pastor

Michelle Miller for more info or to add your name to the list. [mmiller@htchicago.org](mailto:mmiller@htchicago.org) or 773.248.1233

**Volunteers are needed** to staff the nursery on Sunday mornings. A number of changes have happened in the past few months and we currently need to add 6-8 more volunteers to our nursery staff list. Anyone can volunteer, whether you are a parent or not. There are always two adults working in the nursery together and there are typically 2-6 children in the nursery on any given Sunday. Our church is growing and so is the need for a stronger program for young children. Please consider this important ministry to and with the young children of our congregation. Volunteers staff the nursery from 10:15-11:30 on Sunday mornings and are scheduled about once every 6-8 weeks. Contact Pastor Michelle Miller for more info [mmiller@htchicago.org](mailto:mmiller@htchicago.org) or 773.248.1233

#### **NEW E-mail Addresses for Holy Trinity**

**Please make changes in your address books:**

**Bob Buzzard** – [rbuzzard@htchicago.org](mailto:rbuzzard@htchicago.org)

**Craig Mueller** – [cmueller@htchicago.org](mailto:cmueller@htchicago.org)

**Michelle Miller** – [mmiller@htchicago.org](mailto:mmiller@htchicago.org)

**David Brackley** – [dbrackley@htchicago.org](mailto:dbrackley@htchicago.org)

**CHRISTMAS SERVICE assistants** needed for the 4:30 and 10:30 pm services. Lectors, ushers, communion assistants, altar preparation. E-mail back if you can help out.

## **Upcoming**

### **Sunday Forum, each Sunday at 9:30 am upstairs in St. Mark's Room**

December 10 - *POEMS OF THE SEASON*

Drawing on his background as a professor of British and American literature, Ryan LaHurd will lead a discussion of four poems from the 17<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> centuries which treat Advent and Christmas themes. The poems will be distributed at the forum. Neither familiarity with the poems nor experience with reading poetry is necessary to participate. Poetry, which touches the body, the reason and the emotions, offers a wonderful access to the spirit of the season.

December 17 – *A WOMAN OF THE SEASON*

Every year, on December 12, hundreds of thousands of pilgrims make their way to Mexico City to visit the image and shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe. The image and the story behind it have provided hope to millions since she appeared on the outskirts of Mexico City in 1531. Come to the Adult Forum on Sunday, December 17th to hear Joel Cruz, Ph.D student at the Lutheran School of Theology, describe how Guadalupe's liberating message can be good news for us today.

### **Advent Family Day**

On Sunday December 3rd join us for a fun way to celebrate the beginning of Advent. Families with children are invited to come to the potluck between 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. The kids will have time to play with each other and parents will enjoy the opportunity to visit with other parents from Holy Trinity. Pastor Michelle Miller will be planning a fun activity for all to join in together. It is helpful, but not required, to know in advance if you plan to attend. Sign up at the back of the church or send an e-mail [mmiller@htchicago.org](mailto:mmiller@htchicago.org)

### **Wednesday Evenings in Advent: December 5, 12 and 19**

**7:00 pm Evening Prayer and Homily**

**During the busy month of December join us for a time of song, prayer, and silence**

## **Last Sunday's Sermon:**

Pr. Michelle Miller

November 26, 2006  
Christ the King Sunday

I still remember the day we introduced our son, Peder, to his people. It was a cold March day in Minnesota and we met in a party room at a high-rise apartment building in St. Paul. It was the Sevig baby shower for Peder and it was the first time Julie's family of close-knit cousins was able to see him and hold him and rejoice with us in this new addition to the Sevig family.

But it wasn't the only time Peder met his people. Later that summer he traveled with me to a farm in North Dakota to meet my mom's extended family, including my dying grandmother.

And every year we bring him along on our annual fall getaway with our group of friends, *our* "family of choice." We remind him whenever we're together: "this is your tribe, these are your people: Auntie Jen, God daddy Jon, Uncle Steve..." All seven have similar titles.

Who are your people? Did you gather with them just a few days ago? Or visit with them by phone? Are they surrounding you now—in this place as we gather to celebrate the end of another church year AND Christ the King Sunday?

Today we hear Jesus described as King. For most of us, this is not our typical—even comfortable—image of Jesus. We Americans don't know much about royalty. Maybe we'd relate better to an image of Jesus as CEO or Jesus as president.

What we *do* know about royalty has likely come from watching the British. Royal weddings and funerals attract millions of viewers who are enthralled by the ritual and elegance of the monarchy. Many of us watched Princess Diana's funeral and, if we're old enough (or cared), perhaps we got up early to watch her wedding to Prince Charles. We may recognize Queen Elizabeth, but we don't know exactly what she does from day to day or how much power she really has.

So here we are with a feast day centered on an image that is foreign to us, and relatively new. Christ the King Sunday was created less than 100 years ago—quite unlike our other feast days that come with centuries of tradition. This fact alone reminds us that the church continues to change and renew itself. This feast day is intended to unite Christians throughout the world using an image we can all relate to.

Ironically, traditional images and stories of royalty have been anything but unifying. They've been quite the opposite. They're often patriarchal and power-driven. So what can we cling to in this celebration? In the songs we sing today? What do we know about this King named Jesus?

We know that most kings rule over a specific geographic region, but this king's region is boundless. We know that most kings have subjects who are legally bound to serve and adore their king. But Christ the King is a servant who freely and fully loves us. We remember and declare on this day that Christ the King declared us his people, the ones he is bound to in love forever.

I remember another time our son Peder was introduced to his people—first sleeping in a car seat in a pew right back there on a cold winter's night as the congregation gathered to sing Christmas hymns. But then later introduced and welcomed more fully as we stood together at that font and immersed him in the warm waters of God's grace. Since that Easter Vigil night he has been reminded again and again at this table, nourished with bread and wine, that he belongs to Christ and to God's people. He may not fully understand it all yet, but he will as he and we all continue this kingdom practice of bath and meal.

This feast day is like a mixed up, motley family reunion Sunday. And isn't that what being united is all about? Isn't that what being "a people" is all about?

Peder, and you and I, are part of a diverse group of people embraced by God's grace. In this kingdom and because of this king, we're united with people we'll never meet, neighbors or relatives whom we don't like or can't agree with, and the great cloud of witnesses who dine with us at Eucharistic tables throughout the

world.

This Sunday is not foreign after all. It is for us because it is for all people. This kingdom has nothing to do with royal bloodlines but everything to do with baptism. This kingdom is not about the haves and have-nots, but is about seeking justice for all people. This kingdom is not about declaring war on another nation but about working for peace. The people of this kingdom share a common story, a font and a food—and there is plenty for all. We are Christ's people and his kingdom and love are boundless. All are welcome, especially the chronically unwelcome, because Christ gathers us at a font, and reigns not from a throne, but from a cross.

“We have made it through another year. Through another cycle of hearing the story of Jesus' life, of being taught by him in miracle and parable. Today marks another year of living our messy and joyful lives: burying our dead, birthing and baptizing our babies, marrying and divorcing, struggling and thriving. We bring all of the year's experiences to the climax of this day. We lay it all at the feet of the one enthroned on the cross, and we give thanks. It is good to be a people and to have a king—a king who rules with love and mercy.”<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> This quote and the idea of “A people” came from Pastor Mary Anderson in an article from The Christian Century. The article can be read on-line at [http://www.findarticles.com/p/articles/mi\\_m1058/is\\_23\\_120/ai\\_111114179](http://www.findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_m1058/is_23_120/ai_111114179)

HOLY TRINITY E-NEWS is the weekly electronic newsletter of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Chicago. To unsubscribe, to request additional subscriptions or to submit announcements, contact us at [rbuzzard@htchicago.org](mailto:rbuzzard@htchicago.org)

All prayer requests should be sent to: [rbuzzard@htchicago.org](mailto:rbuzzard@htchicago.org)

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 1218 W. Addison, Chicago, IL 60613  
773.248.1233

Website: [www.holytrinitychicago.org](http://www.holytrinitychicago.org)