



Holy Trinity Lutheran Church THE COMMUNITY CHURCH

On 28th Avenue between Lake & 31st Streets Minneapolis, MN 55406 612-729-8358

Web site: www.htlcmpls.org email: office@htlcmpls.org

Pastors: Ronald K. Johnson, Stacy K. Johnson

Volume 90, Issue 20

May 14, 2006

WORSHIP SERVICES:

8:45 and 11:00 am

CHURCH SCHOOL: 9:45 am

THE GOSPELS

Every Sunday the scripture readings include a passage from one of the gospels. In the next several weeks an attempt will be made in this column to say something about the four gospels—Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Each of the gospels has a distinctive perspective on the ministry of Jesus and its meaning.

It is important to recognize that at least 35 years went by between the completion of the life of Jesus and the writing of the first gospel. This is not to say that during this interim there was little circulation of the Jesus story. In fact, there developed thriving Christian communities over much of the Mediterranean world within a few years following the completion of the life of Jesus. The message was carried largely through oral tradition, which is to say word-of-mouth.

Mark was the first gospel to be written. It dates to the years of 65-70 AD. In spite of the writing being called Mark, nothing is really known of the precise identity of the author. He does appear to have been a gentile Christian writing to a gentile Christian audience.

The context of the writing was a period of great conflict and unrest. The Jewish War was being waged within the Roman Empire. There was a sense that a great battle was being waged between the forces of good and evil. This kind of setting perhaps was what caused Mark to write in such an urgent style, as if there was not much time remaining before the end.

Mark seems to have created in his gospel a new literary form. Up to that nothing quite like it existed. It seems appropriate that a revolutionary literary form be devised to convey the revolutionary message of Jesus the Christ.

Mark is the shortest of the four gospels with only 16 chapters. It is a very quick paced accounting of the basic events in the ministry of Jesus. Mark has no birth story, but begins with an announcement of Jesus Christ and proceeds to give a short account of his baptism. The style of writing is abrupt. No attention is given to teachings (in contrast to Matthew and Luke). According to Mark, Jesus was largely unrecognized as one who revealed God. His disciples were represented as little better than the general population in understanding Jesus. Jesus is actually represented in Mark as working to keep his identity a secret, except to a few people close to him.

Mark's representation of the Jesus story is that Jesus was briefly popular within a small area of Palestine and he gathered a small group of close associates. He earned, however, the antagonism of the religious establishment and the Roman government. This caused his arrest, trial, and execution. Mark seems to say Jesus was misunderstood and thus rejected. Mark also seems to say this was part of a divine plan.

The outline provided by Mark became the outline used by the other gospel writers. In each case, the writers drew from other materials, including additional oral tradition. Each writer, including Mark, shaped the materials available to fit his own theological purpose. It is difficult to say how accurate a portrayal of Jesus Mark provided. It is but one perspective. It should therefore be read alongside of the other gospels, for they complement and correct one another.

Ronald K. Johnson, Pastor

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

A theme that runs through all the lessons is that God's love is manifest through the Christ-event. The I John reading is the most explicit expression of God's love. This love is reflected in the actions of people.



LESSONS
Acts 8:26-40
Psalm 22:25-31
I John 4:7-21
John 15:1-8

SUNDAY ADULT FORUM

9:55 am

In the Church Library

May 14 "Children's Literature"

Pastor Stacy K. Johnson

Stories written primarily for children occupy a prominent position in Holy Trinity's education programs. This session will present a discussion concerning the types of stories we use, how they are incorporated into lessons and show examples of some particularly fine books.

May 21 "Gilead" A Book Review

Pastor Joel Wiberg

May 28 "Welcome the Troops Home"

John Varone

VISUAL ARTS EXHIBIT

The walls of the Community Room are lined with pieces of art produced by members of the congregation. The works of children and adults are represented in the collection. The exhibit will remain up through Sunday, May 14.

AFRICAN FESTIVAL

It is our practice to conduct annually a festival that brings together the English and Swahili portions of the congregation. This festival will be held on Sunday, June 4. The worship service will place particular emphasis on African music and this is supported by the participation of the Swahili choir. Of course, no African Festival is complete without a meal. There will be a dinner immediately following the 11:00 am worship. The dinner will feature food common to East Africa. Please make a reservation. The cost of the meal will be \$5 for adults and \$2 for children under 12.

PARISH INFORMATION

AIDS PROJECT IN TANZANIA

Holy Trinity has been related to the North West Diocese in Tanzania for many years. We provided funds for the construction of a Secondary School. In addition both money and supplies were provided for a library and a number of medical facilities.

We have recently taken on another project. It has to do with care for children who have been made orphans by virtue of the deaths of parents due to AIDS. When the last survey was taken, in excess of 34,000 children in a relatively modest area in and around Bukoba were orphans. The annual growth in the number of orphans is over 40 percentage. This is happening in areas that are very poor (\$130 per capita income per year) that are without medical services that can even begin to address the needs of people afflicted with AIDS.

A program known as HUYAWA (Service for Children) has been established by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania, North Western Diocese for the purpose of addressing the needs of children and their families. Emphasis is placed on prevention of HIV/AIDS, support for children in school, medical services and legal assistance. We now have a fund established at Holy Trinity for this project. This represents a very direct way in which to provide assistance.

SHOWBOAT PERFORMANCE

You are invited to a performance of George M. Cohan's "Forty-Five Minutes from Broadway" on the Minnesota Centennial Showboat. A limited number of tickets have been secured for Tuesday, June 20. The ticket price is \$16. Performance time is 2:30 pm; departure from church at 1:30 pm. When making your reservation, payment is due.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Work has begun on the installation of a new wrought iron-like fence on the west and north sides of the property. We shall quickly proceed to develop planting beds on the outside along the west side. This is all part of an attempt to bring the whole of the property to a point of excellence in terms of beauty. The financial need for this project and the repair of the evacuator tank (which is essential for the building) is \$30,000. We are about one-third of the way toward this goal.

15,000 30,000

AUGUST MUSICAL

The final feature in the Summer Program will be a musical. Participants will be youth and adults. The performance dates will be August 23 and 24. Weeknight rehearsals will begin the week of July 10. An information meeting will be held in May. The production will be *Fiddler on the Roof*.

THE CHURCH, CLIMATE CHANGE, AND GOD'S CREATION

An event on global warming will be held at Luther Seminary May 19 at 6 pm and May 20, 8:30 am-4:30 pm. There will be a networking session for congregations active with Congregations Caring for Creation (Holy Trinity is part of this group). The National Council of Churches sponsors the event.

THE COMMUNITY CHURCH -- USPS 777-060

**Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
2730 East 31st Street
Minneapolis, MN 55406**

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Periodicals**

PARISH EVENTS May 14 – May 20			
SUNDAY	8:45, 11am	Worship Service of Holy Communion	
	9:45 am	Sunday Church School	9:55 am Adult Forum
MONDAY	5:00 pm	Personnel	6:30 pm Executive Committee
	7:00 pm	Church Council	
TUESDAY	7:00 pm	Tutoring	7:30 pm Soccer
WEDNESDAY	6:30 pm	Children's choir	7:30 pm Choir
THURSDAY	5:30 pm	Day Care Potluck	

GIFTS TO CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT in memory of

- **Charlotte Lien** by Leona Walstrom, Florence Carstens, Darlene Erickson, Gloria Carlson, Irene Westerlund, Florence Reed, Florence Veith, Lillian Howell, Pearl Cronin, Rose Dwinnell, Evelyn Corrigan, LaVerne Mitchell, Rosella Messenbrink

GIFT TO YOUTH PROGRAM in honor of

- **2006 Confirmands** by Karrie Cable-Spratt

GIFTS TO TANZANIAN PASTORS FUND by Don/Carole Lang

GIFT TO NONVIOLENT PEACEFORCE by Dave/Nancy Moe

SPECIAL GIFT in memory of

- **Fred McGee** by Sara Dowling

GIFT TO WORLD HUNGER in memory of

- **Fred McGee** by Carol Johnson

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS May 14, 2006			
Preacher	Stacy K. Johnson		
Celebrant	Ronald K. Johnson		
Crucifer	8:45 am	Paul Ramsour / 11:00 am	Maggie Kane
Liturgist	8:40 am	Youth / 11:00 am	Carlye Proescholdt
Communion Asst	8:45 am	Allison Kohlhasse	
	11:00 am	Alisa Santa Ana White, Katherine McQuarter	
Cantor	8:45 am	Stephanie Sulzbach / 11:00 am	Emma Capman
Acolytes	8:45 am	Kevin Kane / 11:00 am	Meagan Fortier, Andy Myers
Greeters	8:45 am	Namara & Grace Kibira / 11 am Maggie & Nora	
Kane Ushers	8:45 am	Amber Barry, Aaron Crawford	
	11:00 am	Maja Proescholdt, Geoff Gillmor, Ella Masters, Holly Johnson	
Altar Guild	8:45 am	Jeanette Brown, Carole Schneiders	
	11:00 am	Lynda Nordholm, Dennis Nordholm	
Nursery	8:40 am	Sean Gosiewski	10:30 am Dave Krig

WORKERS FOR VACATION CHURCH SCHOOL

We shall need at least 45 workers for the first session in the Summer Program, June 19-22. Please volunteer now. The need is for persons to serve as teachers and as artisans in the village to be constructed in the gym.

PASTORAL ACTS: Baptisms: 4/305 Desmond Garcia, 4/24 Della Schmidt, 7/10 Barbara Tarleton, 8/14 Josefine Hines, 8/14 Rachel Alm (to be continued)

FINANCIAL REPORT May 7 Year to date

Budget requirement	10,905.77	207,209.62
Budget receipts	12,832.68	214,836.36
World Hunger	125.00	3,147.00
Capital Improvements	3,435.00	10,403.00
Urban Latino Ministry	25.00	1,345.00
Nonviolent Peaceforce	-.-	486.00
African Pastors Endowment	10.00	165.00