



Holy Trinity Lutheran Church THE COMMUNITY CHURCH

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Pastors: Ronald K. Johnson, Stacy K. Johnson

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June 18, 2006

WORSHIP SERVICES:

8:45 and 11:00 am

CHURCH SCHOOL: 9:45 am

HOW MUCH IS IT?

The late news last evening carried a short story concerning a professor at the Hamline Law School who did some thinking about \$300 billion dollars. How much is such an amount of money? he inquired. It is unlikely that many people can really comprehend the meaning of such a number. He picked this number because this is reported to be the amount of money spent on the war in Iraq. I have actually heard that the real number is far higher, but for purposes of discussion, let us use the \$300 billion figure.

To put things in perspective, the professor said \$300 billion would provide every American \$1,000 or every person in the world \$47. It would pay the entire college costs for a year of every student in the country. It would pay for the fuel of every car in the country for a year. Well, you get the idea.

I have just read an article on poverty in the world. It makes the point that a smaller proportion of the population is poor today than was the case 20 years ago. Nonetheless, one of every five people in the world still lives on less than \$1 per day. The gap between the rich countries and the poor nations is expanding. The highest levels of poverty are in sub-Saharan Africa. In fact, all but one of the 16 countries in the world with the highest level of hunger are in sub-Saharan Africa. Hunger does not tell the whole story. In these countries life expectancy has dropped to 46. The World Bank has defined poverty as "unacceptable human deprivation in terms of economic opportunity, education, health and nutrition, as well as lack of employment and security." By this definition, one of every five persons in the world is living with deprivation that is totally unacceptable.

When the professor was talking about what \$300 billion would buy, I got to thinking about the 20% of the world's population that seems clearly to be living on the edge. It seems logical to suggest that this amount of money, if properly used, would go a long way in enabling the poorest people of this world to be lifted above the line of deprivation as established by the World Bank. The United Nations did sign the Millennium Declaration, which promises to "spare no effort to free our fellow men, women and children from the abject and dehumanizing conditions of extreme poverty," but the money forthcoming for such work is extremely modest. The United States gives about \$16 billion in foreign aid for development assistance. As a percentage of GNP, this ranks last among the 22 largest industrialized nations.

The doctrine of preemptive military action has been used by this country to protect against supposed security threats. There would be far more justification in using the doctrine of preemptive action relative to poverty. Helping people out of abject poverty is a matter of justice. It is first and foremost a moral issue. Second, it is a real investment in security. In an increasingly interdependent world, not even the richest country is an island of safety. Think of what \$300 billion could have purchased. Now think about what it has accomplished in Iraq.

Ronald K. Johnson, Pastor

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Last Sunday, we briefly talked of 'discernment,' a central theme. How can we gain clarity as to what is going on in the world? What are the standards to be used in making decisions? This has many implications for the selection of leadership.



LESSONS

I Samuel 15:34 – 16:13

Psalm 20

II Corinthians 5:6-10, 14-17

Mark 4:26-34

SUNDAY ADULT FORUM

9:55 am

In the Church Library

June 18 "A Vision for Christian Education"

Pastor Stacy K. Johnson

Christian education is one of the primary signatures of this congregation. This is to say that it is considered very important and substantial resources are given to it. The congregation operates with a particular framework or vision concerning Christian education. This framework will be articulated and discussed.

June 25 "A Departure Conversation"

Pastors Stacy Johnson and Ronald Johnson

There are dreams, knowledge and experience on the part of both congregational members and pastors that should be presented and discussed as part of the transition. There will be a focus also precisely on steps being taken to enable a smooth transition in pastoral leadership.

July 2 "Video Interview with William Sloan Coffin"

William Sloan Coffin recently died. He was in his life one of the great prophetic voices within the church and American society.

VACATION CHURCH SCHOOL

Over this week, the gym is being transformed into a somewhat reduced replica of our community. It will have a cathedral, library, school, park, theatre and museum. On Monday morning, June 19th, it will be ready for the directed activities of children as they are engaged in biblical study, theological reflection, music and 'the work of a community.' The work will include making a stained glass window and participating in a felting project.

We need about 45 adults and high school youth to help with enabling this community to function in a good manner. We are still a bit short of this number. Please volunteer. You may call the church office. You will be provided with necessary training. This really is a fun week for children and adults.

PARISH INFORMATION

VOTE ON COLOMBIAN FUNDING

Since 2000, the Colombian military has received \$3.8 billion in equipment from military helicopters to fumigation materials. The purpose of the fumigation materials was to destroy coca plants and thereby reduce drug trade, particularly with the U.S. More coca was grown this past year than in 1999. This would suggest that the so-called 'Plan Colombia' is not working. Last week Congressman Jim McGovern offered an amendment to the fund-ing bill that would have transferred \$30 million from funds for aerial fumigation to emergency humanitarian relief for refugees around the world. The measure failed. The only bit of good news is that seven of the eight Minnesota members of Congress voted for the measure. This would suggest that efforts of the Sal y Luz project in which Holy Trinity participates had some influence on members of the Minnesota delegation.

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP HYMNAL

In October of this year, we shall begin using a new hymnal. It promises to contain some additional and good resources for use in the worship life of the congregation. An order for 350 is being placed. You are invited to purchase one or more hymnals for the church. You may wish to purchase them as memorial gifts or gifts in honor of someone. The cost is \$17.50. Labels indicating your gift will be placed on the inside cover of the hymnal. A table for the purchase will be in the Community Room on Sundays. You may also contact the church office.

SIMPSON SHELTER PROJECT

Youth of the congregation will prepare and serve the evening meal at the Simpson Shelter on Wednesday, June 28. Youth are to meet at Holy Trinity at 5:30 pm for transport to the shelter. Between the men's shelter and women's shelter, Holy Trinity youth provide meals 17 times per year.

SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL TEACHERS

It is particularly important that persons planning to teach in the Sunday Church School program (September through May) sign the volunteer list now. Pastor Stacy Johnson will provide in early July an orientation to the new teaching materials. Stephanie Sulzbach, a public school teacher for more than 30 years, has been employed to coordinate the Sunday Church School.

TRIP TO CENTRAL EUROPE

Preliminary plans have been established for a trip to Central Europe April 23 – May 7 of 2007. The itinerary will include Budapest, Krakow, Auschwitz/Birkenau, Salmopol, Bratislava and Vienna. There will be visits with leaders and people of the Lutheran Church in several areas. Among other special events will be a dinner with Jewish Klezmer music and a performance of the Slovak National Philharmonic Orchestra. By all accounts the area is beautiful and very interesting. If you have interest, please sign the list in the Community Room. A complete itinerary will be ready in the early fall.

PARISH EVENTS June 18–June 24

SUNDAY	8:45, 11am	Worship Service of Holy Communion
	9:45 am	New Member Breakfast 9:55 am Adult Forum
MONDAY	9:30 am	Vacation Church School
	6:30 pm	Executive Committee 7:00 pm Church Council
TUESDAY	9:30 am	VCS 1:30 pm Showboat Outing
WEDNESDAY	9:30 am	VCS
THURSDAY	9:30 am	VCS 6:00 pm VCS Meal & 7:00 pm Program

GIFT TO HYMNALS FUND by Bob/Jane Aldrich, Jim/Carol Schneiders

GIFTS TO WORLD HUNGER by Jerry Olson, Viola Madson
and in memory of - **Bill Robeson** by Ronald/Margaret Peterson

- **Fred McGee** by Irene Blodgett

- **Michael Popelka** by Ronald/Margaret Peterson

GIFTS TO CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT by Jim/Carol Schneiders, Edina Steen, Russell/Audrey Johnson, Anna/Bob Butler, Dorothy Krumrei, Aldora Ferrian, Joel/Nancy Wiberg, Kathy Hollander/Rod Johnson, Bob/Dorothy Kelly, Gary/Beverly Sartain, Margaret Carlson, Liz Blood, Jerry Olson, and in memory of

- **Loved ones** by Cathryn Olson

GIFT TO 'HUYAMA' FUND (AIDS Project) by Joel/Nancy Wiberg

GIFT TO AFRICAN PASTORS FUND by Nicholas Ellison

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS June 18, 2006

Preacher	Ronald K. Johnson		
Celebrant	Stacy K. Johnson		
Crucifer	8:45 am	Ron Johnson	/ 11:00 am Bob Hulteen
Liturgist	8:45 am	Jane Kretzmann	/ 11:00 am Sandra Peterson
Cantor	Peter Aldrich		
Communion Asst	8:45 am	Richard Liedholm, Carol Masters	
	11:00 am	Liz Rudrud, Cliff Brown	
Acolytes	8:45 am	Tyler Spratt / 11:00 am Christine Nilsen, Megan Libra	
Greeters	8:45 am	Deb Sodt / 11:00 am Stella Townsend, Helen Cotton	
Ushers	8:45 am	Bob Peschiutta, Sally Kohlstedt, Jim Schneiders, Al Mohr	
	11:00 am	Rod Johnson, George Madich, Alan Libra, John Kelly	
Altar Guild	8:45 am	Linda Berglin, Karrie Cable-Spratt	
	11:00 am	Pat Lundquist, Linda Gawthrop	
Nursery	8:40 am	Margaret Carlson / 10:30 am Ann White & Alisa	

YOUTH-ADULT MUSICAL

Performance dates for "Fiddler on the Roof" have been changed to August 16-17. The principal cast has been selected and rehearsals will begin the week of July 10. Some small speaking roles are still available. Please contact Ann Schrooten or Peter Johnson information.

FINANCIAL REPORT June 11 Year to date

Budget requirement	10,905.77	261,738.46
Budget receipts	8,747.55	265,951.56
World Hunger	166.00	4,624.00
Capital Improvements	411.00	10,879.00
Nonviolent Peaceforce	-,-	506.00
African AIDS Fund	35.00	1,565.00
African Pastors Endowment	50.00	255.00

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