



# 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](http://www.htlcmpls.org) email: [office@htlcmpls.org](mailto:office@htlcmpls.org)

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May 13, 2007

**WORSHIP SERVICES:**

**8:45 and 11:00 am**

**CHURCH SCHOOL: 9:45 am**

## WHAT'S GOD UP TO?

*What's God up to?* It's a theological question. It's an invitation to exploration and discovery. It's a call to discernment. The story of the conversion of the Roman centurion, Cornelius, along with his relatives and friends, is told in Acts 10 - 11. God was already at work in the life of this Gentile 'outsider' before the apostle Peter got involved. What was God up to? Nothing less than smashing down walls between 'insiders' and 'outsiders', radically re-defining 'God's people', and expanding the gospel's scope beyond the original Jewish Church to all peoples and nations. At the same time, God was shaking the foundations of the personal and communal identity of Peter and fellow Jewish believers. The Spirit was calling them to re-read and re-interpret portions of the very Scriptures they thought they completely understood. God was doing a new thing.

Through a vision and a voice, God called Peter to eat 'unclean food' and prepare to welcome 'unclean' Gentiles into the Christian fold. *What God has made clean, you must not call profane.* Lines between Jews and Gentiles ran deep. Old Testament food laws were not simply legalistic 'scruples' from the past that could easily be let go. Such lines and laws defined the Jews, set them apart as 'God's people' and saw them through times of persecution and foreign occupation. When Alexander the Great conquered Palestine three centuries before Jesus' birth, he tried to pressure Jews to adopt Greek culture and religion. In 167 BCE, Greek ruler Antiochus Epiphanes IV banned Judaism from Palestine. He converted the temple into a shrine for Zeus by sacrificing a pig in the Holy of Holies and then sent soldiers into the countryside to force Jews to eat pork or die. In one village, a priest and his five sons refused, killed the Greek soldiers and ignited the conflict between Jews and Greeks known as the Maccabean Wars. In the end, the Jews were victorious and re-captured the temple in what is still celebrated in Judaism as Hanukkah. So when God tells Peter to eat 'unclean' food, it's a change from everything he's been taught. It took a new and clear word from God to supersede the traditional, historical and Scriptural understanding of who would be welcome at the table.

Is God still doing new things? If so, what's God up to today? What's God up to among the nations? What's God up to as all the nations of the world come to our country, our state, our neighborhoods – whether 'legally' or 'illegally'? What's God up to within the Church today? I believe Acts 10 - 11 speaks to today's issue regarding the welcome and full inclusion of gay and lesbian people into the life and leadership of the Church. Beyond the handful of verses about homosexuality in the Bible, these chapters give a theological framework to think about the issue. What other issues might these chapters speak to? We feel deeply and intensely about many issues. We may believe the Bible backs us. Peter felt deeply and intensely about 'clean' and 'unclean' food and people. He believed the Scriptures backed him. But the Spirit of the risen Christ had a new word for the Church and directed her back to re-read certain portions of Scripture in a new light.

Then and now, we are called to discern how God might be at work doing a new thing in our world and our lives. What's God up to down at 'Cornelius house'?...My house?...Your house?...Holy Trinity's house? As William Willimon says, *Faith, when it comes down to it, is our often breathless attempt to keep up with the redemptive activity of God, to keep asking ourselves, 'What is God doing, where on earth is God going now?'* (Acts: Interpretation Commentary, Atlanta, John Knox Press, 1988, p.99)

Bruce C. Arnevik, Interim Pastor [arnevik@htlcmpls.org](mailto:arnevik@htlcmpls.org)

## SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

*Sunday's readings point to new understandings in Christian life. Paul receives a vision that guides his preaching of the Word to new territories. John dreams of the New Jerusalem, whose temple is God. The world of the disciples expands as Jesus promises that the Spirit will be with them in the future.*

### LESSONS

Acts 16:9-15

Psalms 67

Revelation 21:10, 22--22:5

John 14:23-29



## SUNDAY ADULT FORUM

**9:55 am**

**Library**

### May 13 "Generation Next" Korla Masters

This will be video presentation on the 16- to 25-year-old generation. Through a series of vignettes of young people we discover who they are, what they value, and what they think about the world around them.

### May 20 "Prayer and Action for Colombia"

**Luis Murillo**

Luis Murillo, formerly Lutheran World Relief's Foreign Policy Advisor, will speak at the Adult Forum on May 20, during the Days of Prayer and Action for Colombia.

## RELIEF KITS FOR FAMILIES IN IRAQ

Local business Welna Hardware is serving as a collection site for Relief Kits to be sent by Mennonite Central Committee to needy families displaced by the Iraq War. Boxes containing the following must be dropped off at Welna *before May 12*:

4 (4-5 oz) bars soap in wrappers

1 plastic bottle shampoo in resealable bag

10 cups powdered laundry soap, double bag, sealable bags

4 adult size toothbrushes, in original packages

4 new bath towels, medium weight, dark color

1 hairbrush (remove packaging); 1 comb, 8 inches

1 fingernail clipper; 1 box bandages, minimum 40, assorted

1 pkg sanitary pads (18-24 thin maxi or ultrathin)

Welna will donate the \$4 shipping for each kit. Donations to the total cost of the project may be sent to the Mennonite Central Committee, <http://www.mcc.org/donate/donate.html>.

## CONCERNING PEOPLE

Please pray for **Jean Swanson** and family in the death of her mother **Delores Swanson**, who died May 5 at the age of 82. The funeral will be Wednesday, May 9, Sacred Heart Catholic Church. Prayers are requested for those of the congregation recovering after surgery:

**Tyler Spratt**, at home after surgery May 2, and **June Englund** at Presbyterian Homes.

## PARISH INFORMATION

### YOUTH SUNDAY Sunday, May 13

May 13 is *Youth Sunday*. Holy Trinity youth (grades 7-12) will participate in all aspects of the Sunday liturgies in a very intentional way. An offering basket will be in the Community Room for donations to Simpson Shelter meals—a service project that youth are involved in throughout the year.

**Monday, May 14, 6:30** (earlier than usual)—Youth Committee meeting

### ASCENSION DAY

A service of Evening Prayer will be held at Holy Trinity Thursday, May 17, to commemorate the Ascension of our Lord.

### DEFENSIVE DRIVING CLASS FOR ADULTS 55+

State Farm offers its free 55+ defensive driving sessions May 15 and May 17, 6:00-8:30 pm. To qualify for reductions on insurance (need not be State Farm), you must attend both sessions. 4020 Minnehaha Ave. Please call for reservations or more info: 612-728-1000

### PLYMOUTH THEATRE PERFORMANCE

You are invited to attend a performance of *Church Basement Ladies* Sunday, May 20. A celebration of the church basement kitchen and the women who work there, *Church Basement Ladies* is a musical comedy high-lighting four women and their relationships as they organize food and solve problems of a rural Minnesota church about to undergo changes. Tickets are \$23; a sign up sheet is in the Community Room.

### FELLOWSHIP SUPPERS

Another round of Fellowship Suppers will take place during the next few months. Hosts invite small groups to their homes for informal fellowship. Over time we hope to include all who are interested in participating. If you have questions, please contact Liz Blood, Nurturing Committee.

### CARING FAMILIES AND FRIENDS EVENT

On Sunday, May 27, 2:00 pm, University Lutheran Church of Hope, 601 13th Ave SE, Paul Tiedemann speaks on “Reflections on Trans-cultural Ministry.” Caring Family and Friends is a ministry of the Joint Minneapolis and St Paul Synod Committee for Inclusivity, affirming gay, lesbian, bi-sexual, and transgendered persons and believing all individuals are to be welcomed and included in the full ministry of the church. Contact Tim Fisher at 612.824.8447 for more information.

**NORTH SHORE BRASS:** The **Fine Arts Series** next event will be Sunday, May 20, 4:30 pm, with a performance by The North Shore Brass.

### MICAH – HOUSING SOLUTIONS ACT

The importance of ongoing support and commitment to the Housing Solutions Act was demonstrated when the Senate Finance Committee overwhelmingly passed the Housing Solutions Act and recommended that it pass the Senate Tax Committee. It remains an important factor in end of session negotiations on tax and spending priorities. Keep up the pressure for affordable housing! More information: Jodi Nelson [jodi@micah.org](mailto:jodi@micah.org)

**MEALS ON WHEELS:** Holy Trinity is scheduled to drive Meals on Wheels the week of May 21-25. Please sign up in the Community Room.

| PARISH EVENTS May 13 – May 19 |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| <b>SUNDAY</b>                 | 8:45, 11am Worship Service of Holy Communion<br>9:45 am Sunday School 9:55 am Adult Forum          |
| <b>MONDAY</b>                 | 8:00 am Executive Cmte 6:30 pm Youth Cmte<br>7:00 pm Nurturing, Stewardship, Chris Ed 8 pm Council |
| <b>TUESDAY</b>                | 5:30 pm 3 <sup>rd</sup> year confirmation  |
| <b>WEDNESDAY</b>              | Noon Longfellow clergy 6:00 pm COMPASS<br>6:30 pm Children’s choir 8:00 pm Choir                   |
| <b>THURSDAY</b>               | 7:00 pm Ascension Day Evening Prayer   |

**SPECIAL GIFTS** by Toni Rolfsen and in memory of

- **Kathy Ekwall’s mother** by Brian Lenz/Deb Sotd

**GIFTS TO WORLD HUNGER** by Bob/Helen Norheim, Ingrid Phillips, Bud/Sylvia Dixen and in memory of - **Ross Blodgett** by his wife Irene

- **Kathy Ekwall’s mother** by Vi/Vernon Michaelson

**GIFTS TO HYMNALS FUND** in memory of - **parents, John & Helen, and brothers, John & James Lund** by Margaret Carlson and in honor of

- **Leanna Marie Hiner, Carrie Sue Hiner, Kenneth Steven Hiner** by Mark/Sue Hiner

- **Maggie Kane’s confirmation** by James Hartsoe/Lyle Steinfeldt

### WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS May 13, 2007

|                |  |  |
|----------------|--|--|
| Preacher       | Susan Masters  |  |
| Celebrant      | 8:45 am Randy Nelson / 11:00 am Gary Sartain   |  |
| Crucifer       | Youth  |  |
| Liturgist      | 8:45 am Joyce Peterson / 11:00 am Youth  |  |
| Cantor/Music   | 8:45 am Emma Capman / 11am Peter Aldrich, Ella Masters   |  |
| Communion Asst | 8:45 am Amber Barry, Karrie Cable-Spratt   |  |
|                | 11:00 am Chelsea Rolfsen, Liz Rudrud   |  |
| Greeters       | 8:45 am Ian Cable-Koennecke / 11 am Liz Blood, youth   |  |
| Ushers         | 8:45 am Bob Peschiutta, Vernon Michaelson, David Kohlstedt, Ron Mack Murphy / 11 Aaron Crawford, Nora Kane, Maia Proescholdt, Ella Masters, Haley Benson |  |
| Altar Guild    | 8:45 am Bev Peschiutta, Elsie Heyer  |  |
|                | 11:00 am Pat Lundquist, Jody Cameron   |  |
| Nursery        | 8:40 am Amy Neal / 10:30 am Kari Kleven  |  |
| Coffee Servers | 9:45 am Shawn/Sue Barry 12 noon Jennifer/Tom Terwey  |  |

**MOTHERS’ DAY PEACE ACTION:** The historic roots of Mothers’ Day in the US are calls for peace and justice. The weekend of May 12-13, people will be in the streets to call for an end to the Iraq war. An antiwar presence with signs and banners will be held May 12, noon, at Hiawatha & Lake St. Information: WAMM 612-827-5364.

### FINANCIAL REPORT May 6 Year to date

|                       | May 6       | Year to date |
|-----------------------|-------------|--------------|
| Budget Requirement    | 11,244.23   | 202,396.14   |
| Budget Receipts       | 5,619.75.16 | 196,092.11   |
| World Hunger          | --          | 2,206.14     |
| Capital Improvements  | --          | 2,745.00     |
| Nonviolent Peaceforce | --          | 309.00       |
| African AIDS Fund     | 29.75       | 700.95       |
| African Pastors Fund  | --          | 10.00        |
| Urban Latino Ministry | --          | --           |
| Hymnals               | 135.00      | 737.00       |
| Central American Fund | --          | 100.00       |