



Holy Trinity Lutheran Church THE COMMUNITY CHURCH

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

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June 3, 2007

WORSHIP SERVICES:

8:45 and 11:00 am

CHURCH SCHOOL: 9:45 am

ON EAGLES' WINGS, INTO THE WILDERNESS

In Exodus 19:1-9 (First Reading for the "Vigil of Pentecost"), the Israelites are camped in the wilderness at the foot of Mt. Sinai. On the mountain, God instructs Moses to declare to the people, *You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself.* (vs.4) *Eagles' wings* present a fascinating image for God, considering what the eagle has symbolized down through human history among various cultures and nations. Symbolizing power, authority, royalty, military victory, courage, and freedom, the eagle has often stood for empire and emperors. Roman legions marched under the standard of an eagle with outstretched arms as they made their conquests. The eagle became the personal emblem of the Caesars. Napoleon campaigned under the banner of the eagle. As a new nation, the United States made the eagle its seal of state. Its image appears on our currency. It is the emblem of the President and most branches of the armed forces.

So Exodus portrays God as an 'eagle'? Yes, but an eagle that stands *against* human empire and emperors when they oppress God's children. These *eagles' wings* represent deliverance and freedom, power and victory, of an entirely different order. These *eagles' wings* rescued the people of Israel from Pharaoh's labor camps with their terrible working and living conditions.

Didn't Moses play a key role? Absolutely! He was the voice for the voiceless. He was the advocate for the oppressed. It wasn't simply letters or phone calls to elected officials (which are challenging enough for most of us), Moses confronted Pharaoh face-to-face. Yet just three months out of Egypt, it's not Moses' advocacy that's being recalled. Rather it is God's invisible *eagles' wings* that are to be remembered. Without these *eagles' wings*, Pharaoh wins the day no matter how articulate the voice for justice is. This may offend the pride of those of us who sometimes feel rather confident of the abilities we've been given, the intelligence we've been granted, the activism and advocacy we may have participated in. Doesn't *God's* deliverance come through *our* efforts? Certainly God works in and through us. Somehow God's actions and ours are all blended together. The Biblical emphasis, however, is on those *eagles' wings*. It's the Spirit who empowers us. It is the Spirit of God working in, through, above, and beyond all our thoughts, plans, dreams and actions which makes the final difference. While it takes faith to perceive and believe in them, those *eagles' wings* are in flight in human history whether we believe or not.

Also note that God declares, *I... brought you to myself.* Yes, the Israelites were *brought* into a new covenant relationship with God, but there is also geography associated with these words. *Eagles' wings* carried the people into *the wilderness*, which was *not* where they would have chosen to be. The desert wilderness – with neither Egypt's security nor the Promised Land's riches – would prove to be both the time and the place for the formation of new faith and the forging of a new community identity. So in our lives, those same *eagles' wings* may at times bring us into or carry us through times and places of wilderness sojourn in our personal journeys and in our community life together.

Bruce C. Arnevik, Interim Pastor

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THE DAY OF PENTECOST

When the people hear the truth spoken in their own language, they become one in the Spirit. Jesus proclaims that the Advocate, the Spirit of truth, will be always with us. Paul preaches that that same Spirit makes us sons and daughters of God.



SUNDAY ADULT FORUM

9:55 am

Library

LESSONS

Acts 1:1-21

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

Romans 8:14-17

John 14:8-17

June 3

Update on the Legislative Session MN Senator Patricia Torres Ray

As a member of the Education, Finance and Education Policy Committees this year, Patricia Torres Ray was a proponent of investment in education. How did education and other quality of life issues fare in this session?

June 10

Beyond the Green Expo Sean Gosiewski and Expo attendees

Holy Trinity member Sean Gosiewski, Executive Director for the Alliance for Sustainability and a Coordinator for Congregations Caring for Creation, will lead us in discussing roles people of faith can take for the environment.

STATEMENT FROM ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH ON IMMIGRATION RAIDS

...St. Paul's condemns the unauthorized use of its property by agents of the Immigration and Custom Enforcement (ICE) to stage a raid in the south Minneapolis community on Saturday, May 19, 2007. At approximately 10:30 AM, five vehicles with police officers of ICE and one or more officers of the state Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA) parked in our parking lot, disembarked from their vehicles, donned their bullet proof vests, and adjusted their weapons, in plain sight of the community. Pr. Patrick Cabello Hansel repeatedly told the police officers that they were not allowed to use church property and asked them to leave. They refused his request on numerous occasions. These officers later were involved in several raids throughout the community... We strongly object to the involvement of Immigration Police in the use of church property as a staging area for any raid. The effectiveness of our ministry in the community depends on building an atmosphere of trust. St. Paul's mission, as well as the overall unity of the community, is adversely affected by actions that create fear and mistrust in the very people that we are trying to serve. – Unanimously passed by St. Paul's Council

PARISH INFORMATION

CONCERNING PEOPLE: Please pray for the family and friends of **Zella Samuelson**, who died May 18. Her funeral was at Augustana Chapel, Friday, May 25; and for the family and friends of **Evelyn Wester**, who died May 23. Her funeral is Wednesday, May 30, 11:00 a.m. at Holy Trinity. Both were longtime members of Holy Trinity.

FURTHER RESPONSES TO IMMIGRATION RAIDS

Our neighbor Resource Center of the Americas sends suggestions for action: **Please call** Mayor R.T. Rybak (612-673-2100) and ask him to hold the Minneapolis Police accountable for not following the Minneapolis Police-ICE separation ordinance! Or **write a letter** to the editor of the *Star Tribune* in support of community witnesses and against local police getting involved with ICE operations. More information: Minnesota Immigrant Freedom Network 651.287.0660; visit website at www.mnfr.org. See video footage: www.youtube.com/user/ImmigrantRightsNow

SUMMER PROGRAM – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

“On the Road With Jesus” is the theme of this year’s Vacation Church School, which will be held the week of June 18-21, 9:30-11:30 am. We need teachers, village workers, youth helpers and others to make this a successful week. Please indicate your willingness to help. There is a sign-up sheet in the Community Room or call the church office.

PRIDE 2007 – LUTHERANS CONCERNED EVENTS

Pride Worship, June 15, 7 pm at Salem English Lutheran Church, 810 W 31st St, Mpls, www.discoverale.org. Reception following!

LC/TC Booth at the Pride Festival, June 23 and 24; contact Steve Schreuder (612-721-3921) to “person” the booth on those days.

Ashley Rukes GLBT Pride Parade, June 24. The parade begins at 11 am, but the religious groups are usually near the end of the parade. LC/TC requests people from Reconciling in Christ congregations to march, with signs from their church and colored pastel shirts to make a rainbow of color! Gather on the northwest corner of 3rd St and 5th Ave at 11:30 am. For more information and a full list of events, please visit www.tcpride.org.

PRAYER AND REFLECTION Wednesdays in June, 7:00-8:00 pm

Listen, Listen God is Calling. As the people of Holy Trinity continue to discern God’s will in the areas of leadership, mission, and community action, we will devote four Wednesday evenings in June for the community to gather to listen and to pray. Reflective readings from scripture and other devotional authors will be gently woven through the silence, providing ample time for individual and communal prayer. Contact Ann Schrooten if you are interested in facilitating an evening, reading, praying, or just being present. All are welcome!

AN INVITATION FROM PATRICIA TORRES RAY

Please join state legislators in celebrating the environmental policy accomplishments of the 2007 Legislative Session (Omnibus Environment, Energy, and Natural Resource Appropriations Bill). Saturday, June 2, Hidden Falls Regional Park (Mississippi River Blvd. & Prior Ave. S., St. Paul), 12:00-2:00 pm.

PARISH EVENTS June 3 – June 9	
SUNDAY	8:45, 11am Worship Service of Holy Communion
	9:55 am Adult Forum
	2:00 pm Swahili Worship and Fellowship
MONDAY	7:00 pm Social Issues, Worship/Music, Outreach
WEDNESDAY	7:00 pm Prayer and Reflection

ELCA Bishops, LIRS Express Immigration Bill Concerns

May 18 - Three ELCA synod bishops and Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) are critical of the May 17 Senate compromise on immigration reform legislation, objecting to the plan’s cuts to the family-sponsored immigration system and its failure to present a fair and workable plan. The proposal would all but eliminate visas for adult children and siblings who are seeking to join their U.S. citizen and permanent resident relatives, and would greatly reduce the number of visas available for parents of adult children, according to the LIRS news release. “We commend the Senate and administration for their hard work on immigration reform, but we urge them to redouble their efforts to develop truly comprehensive reform that better serves families and the common good,” said Ralston H. Deffenbaugh Jr., LIRS president.

<http://www.elca.org/advocacy/issues/immigration/07-05-18-lirs.html>

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS June 3, 2007	
Preacher	Bruce Arnevik
Crucifer	8:45 am Paul Ramsour / 11:00 am Bob Hulteen
Liturgist	8:45 am Richard Liedholm / 11:00 am Cathryn Olson
Cantor	11:00 am Peter Aldrich
Communion Asst	8:45 am Kevin Proescholdt, Joyce Peterson
	11:00 am John Sulzbach, Kirk Jensen
Greeters	8:45 am Joyce Peterson/11:00 am David Broberg
Ushers	8:45 am Bob Peschiutta, Chris Engen, Karrie Cable-Spratt, Ron Mack Murphy
	11:00 am Mark Hiner, Liz Blood, Lee Kampinen
Altar Guild	8:45 am Bev Peschiutta, Elsie Heyer
	11:00 am Pat Lundquist, Carol Lane
Nursery	8:40 am Sean Gosiewski / 10:30 am Dave Krig
Coffee Servers	9:45 am Karrie Cable-Spratt / Noon Randy/Joy Nelson

REMINDER: OPPORTUNITY SALE – Holy Trinity will again have a Fall Sale. Summer is an excellent time to sort and recycle household items in good repair: tools, small furniture, books, and collectibles (no computers or clothing, please). You may drop off household items for this fall’s sale inside the cul-de-sac door Monday-Friday, 8 am-4 pm, or on Sunday before services.

FINANCIAL REPORT	May 27	Year to date
Budget Requirement	11,244.23	236,128.83
Budget Receipts	6,622.52	225,273.50
World Hunger	100.00	2,367.14
Capital Improvements	100.00	2,870.00
Nonviolent Peaceforce	--	334.00
African AIDS Fund	--	781.95
African Pastors Fund	--	10.00
Hymnals	--	754.50
Central American Fund	--	125.00