



HOLY TRINITY

LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Volume 100, Issue 34 • August 21, 2016

On 28th Avenue between Lake and 31st Streets Minneapolis, MN 55406 • 612-729-8358 • office@htlcmpls.org • www.htlcmpls.org  
WORSHIP SERVICES: 8:45 and 11:00 am • CHURCH SCHOOL: 9:45 am • Jay Carlson and Ingrid Rasmussen, Pastors

## THERE IS A PLACE FOR YOU

*Excerpts from 2016 Symposium Speaker Wil Gafney's Sermon Entitled "Remixed Gospel of Rahab: Who Are You Calling a Whore?"*

Rahab is the deliverer of her people, her family. She saves her (at least) two sisters and (at least) two brothers and their spouses and their children. Parents and slaves swell the ranks of her kindred she saved from several dozen to perhaps a hundred people depending on how many siblings she has, how many children they have and how many servants and/or slaves they all have. Rahab was determined to save as many of her people as she could, and she succeeded yet she is remembered as a whore, slut-shamed by the bible and its readers for all time. I can imagine Rahab looking her people in the eye after she saved their behinds saying, "Now, who are you calling a whore? This whore is your savior."

When I look at Rahab's story, I see the story of a woman who was once a girl-child, somebody's baby girl, who became the kind of woman people whispered about, the kind of woman some folk spit at or on, the kind of woman other women blamed because their husband went to her house every chance they got, the kind of woman Jesus liked to hang out with, and the kind of woman who would always be known for one just thing.

Yet Rahab refuses to be reduced to the stereotypes people have of women who sell sex. She is not all about the Benjamins or the Tubmans. She is not a cold-hearted witch. She has a family that she is going to save using her house of prostitution because God can take that thing in your past or even in your present that stains your name with shame and transform it into your deliverance and bring somebody else out with you. I don't know if her roof was their roof, or her food was their food but when her family's lives were in danger, Rahab saved them. She became the savior of her people, the Canaanite Deborah, Jericho's Harriet Tubman.

Rahab was able to save her people because she put her trust – not in the men who came to her house to lie down – but in their God whom she knew for herself. Rahab was a Canaanite woman whose people were at war with Israel yet she believed that that she could and would be saved. Rahab told Bae and Boo, "your God is God in the heavens above and on the earth." Rahab knew for herself what some folk are still figuring out, that God is worthy of our faith and trust. Rahab put her faith and trust in the God of all creation and was rewarded with the faithfulness of God. Rahab believed that the God who made her and know her and knew what she did for a living loved her. And she was right. Rahab knew that God knew she had sex, sold sex and sometimes liked sex and she knew that her sex life and sex work were not going to keep her from her salvation.

A thousand years before Jesus ministered to another Canaanite woman Rahab believed that God was no respecter of persons. Rahab believed that it didn't matter what you had done or what had been done to you, there is a place for you in the people of God. Rahab knew it didn't matter if folk calls you names when God calls you daughter. That's who Rahab is, God's daughter. Never mind that the Epistle to the Hebrews and James still call her a whore.

I'm so glad Rahab is in Jesus' family tree. The gospel of Jesus Christ is the gospel of Rahab this afternoon, no matter who you are, no matter what you've done, no matter what has been done to you, nothing can keep you from the safety and salvation of God. Israelites and church folk may not want you at the table but God says pull up a seat and sit down. Jesus is not ashamed to have you in the family. They may still call you out of your name but you've got a place in the household of faith and nobody can put you out. They may still talk about what you used to do but you're in the promised land with them anyhow. Salvation came to Rahab's house. Rahab delivered salvation to her own house. God met her right where she was and brought her out of her old house to a brand new life.

## FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

*Remember the sabbath day. Call the sabbath a delight. This is the Lord's day, and the Lord will do for us what the Lord does: feed us, forgive us, help and heal us. Rejoice at all the wonderful things God is doing.*



### READINGS

Isaiah 58:9b-14  
Psalm 103:1-8  
Hebrews 12:18-29  
Luke 13:10-17

### ADULT FORUM

10:00 am—in the Library

AUGUST 21 "15 Now"  
Robin Wonsley

What can you buy with just one hour of your current hourly wage? If you are like most workers today making less than the national minimum wage, you can barely afford milk or bread with your hourly wage. Workers' wages have been stifled over the past three decades and have not been raised to meet respective cities' ever increasing costs of living. We've seen this play out in Minneapolis, with recent reports stating that the city is leading the country in racial and economic disparities. *15 Now* and coalition partners are seeking to improve economic conditions for Minneapolis workers by putting a \$15 charter referendum amendment on the ballot in November.

AUGUST 28 "Meditative Practices"  
Shelley Grimes, Joel Wiberg

Join Shelley Grimes and Joel Wiberg for an introduction to meditative practices. For the last three years, Shelley has been studying heart rhythm meditation, a practice that seeks to connect us with our bodies by uniting the heartbeat and the breath. Joel is a new practitioner of qigong, a practice that involves moving meditation, coordinating slow flowing movement, deep rhythmic breathing, and a meditative state of mind. Neither Shelley nor Joel claim to be experts; they are simply going to share what they've come to know. Come and join our ongoing conversation about the body!

### SAVE THE DATE FOR THE JOHNSON SYMPOSIUM

Join us for the seventh annual Johnson Symposium on Faith & Society as we welcome Rev. Dr. Wil Gafney, Associate Professor of Hebrew Bible at Brite Divinity School in Fort Worth, Texas on Friday, November 4, 7:00 p.m. and Saturday, November 5, 8:30 a.m. More details and registration information are available in the Community Room.

### CHOIRS START IN SEPTEMBER

Rehearsals for the Adult Choir and Trinity Singers will begin Wednesday, September 7. The Adult Choir typically sings for the 11:00 service each Sunday from September to May and rehearses on Wednesday evening from 7:30–9:00; the Trinity Singers provide music for the 8:45 service the second Sunday of the month and rehearse the two Wednesdays before that from 6:30–7:30. Anyone who is interested in singing is encouraged to join! Speak with Cantor David Sims (dsims@htlcmpls.org) for more information.

## PARISH INFORMATION

### INVITATION TO JOIN HOLY TRINITY'S YOUTH CHOIRS

Youth choir rehearsals will begin Wednesday, September 7, this year. Children in grades 1 through 8 are invited to join us in sharing God's love through song! Children's Choir sings approximately every 6 weeks for worship and Cantate! every 4-6 weeks. Rehearsals are as follows:

- **Wednesday, 6:00-6:40 p.m. Children's Choir (Grades 1-4)**
- **Wednesday, 6:40-7:15 p.m. Cantate! (Grades 5-8)**

Please contact Director Ann Schrooten at 612-729-8358 or aschrooten@htlcmpls.org if you have a child who is ready to sing with us! Short one-on-one voice checks (10 minutes) are scheduled for the following dates for both NEW and RETURNING singers:

- **Sunday, August 14, 9:45-10:45 a.m. in the Choir Room**
- **Wednesday, August 17, 5:30-7:30 p.m. in the Choir Room**
- **Wednesday, August 31, 5:30-7:30 p.m. in the Choir Room**

All singers are welcome!

### RACIAL JUSTICE 1.0 SMALL GROUPS

Holy Trinity is once again offering one daytime and one evening discussion group on addressing racism. Groups will be small and will meet six times over the course of three months, beginning in October. The purpose of the groups is to provide an environment for exploring racism and the collaborative role we play in maintaining it. Discussions will also attend to our faith and to how we can take action to promote racial justice. We will use Paul Kivel's book, "Uprooting Racism: How White People Can Work for Racial Justice," and other articles and films to explore our own identity, bias, and privilege. All groups will meet at Holy Trinity. Child care provided, as needed. Indicate your interest by September 18. Once the groups are formed, the participants will choose dates that work for them.

### 'RESTORE THE VOTE' PHONE BANK SATURDAY AUGUST 27

Please join a one-day effort to contact people who have been discharged from their felony conviction sentence, to make sure they know they can vote and encourage them to do so. Those on Facebook may sign up at facebook.com/events/753114918125553 for a shift in the morning (10 a.m.) or afternoon (1:30 p.m.) at TakeAction MN, 705 Raymond Ave, # 100, St. Paul 55114. Those not on Facebook may sign up by contacting Dodd Lamberton.

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### PARISH EVENTS August 21-27, 2016

Sunday	8:45 am	Worship Service with Holy Communion
	9:45 am	Summer Choir Rehearsal
	10:00 am	Adult Forum
	11:00 am	Worship Service with Holy Communion
Tuesday	2:00 pm	Swahili Service
	10:00 am	Mosaic Workshop on 4th floor
	11:00 am	Worship Readings Discussion

**World Hunger** by Joyce Lennander, Kathleen Gabrielsen, David/Sally Kohlstedt, Connie Adams, Herb/Joyce Hanson, and in memory of Peggy Nevers by Bob/Helen Norheim

**Refugee Resettlement** by David/Sally Kohlstedt, Connie Adams, Sandra Nute-Nelson, Herb/Joyce Hanson

**Special Gift** in memory of Peggy Nevers by Dennis/Lynda Nordholm

### WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS AUGUST 21, 2016

8:45 AM	11:00 AM
Acolytes	Louis Kelley, Will Kelley
Lisa Martens	Crucifer
Lyle Steinfeldt	Assisting Minister
Rick Liedholm	Communion
Josh Becker, Anne Beschnett	Altar Guild
Bob Peschiutta, Chris Engen, John Goring	Ushers
Bob/Jane Aldrich	Coffee Servers
Bob Peschiutta, Chris Engen	Counters
Closer	Cliff Brown

<b>Financial Report</b>	<b>August 14</b>	<b>Year to date</b>
Budget requirement	14,432.69	476,278.85
Budget Receipts	5,429.77	443,685.21
Opening Doors	602.87	246,085.34
World Hunger	105.00	3,396.68
Refugee Resettlement	-	1,020.00
Longfellow Alt. H.S.	-	410.00