



THE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Newsletter

WE ACKNOWLEDGE THAT WE GATHER ON THE DAKOTA HOMELAND

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REMEMBERING JOSIAH KIBIRA

A TIME TO WEEP.....A TIME TO MOURN..... ECCLESIASTES 3:4

Josiah Mwesigwa Kibira, both a loyal son of Mother Africa and a gifted adopted son of America and Minnesota, died 28 June 2021. His final breath came in a hospital in his home area of Bukoba, Tanzania. His wife, LuAnn, was at Josiah's side doing whatever possible to help avoid his death. We who knew him and loved him are now weeping and mourning for this sad, deep loss that has left a huge and irreplaceable absence in our lives.

Beloved Communities of Holy Trinity, both African and American born, we pause and ponder, how could this be? In our shock we even deny this reality, thinking this cannot be true. Yet this sorrowful news does, in time, sink into our beings, and we see and eventually accept that our beloved Mwesi has passed from our presence to a new dimension of which we know little, except that to which we cling fiercely by our faith.

This splendid man was first formed, shaped, and raised as a child of the Bahaya people, one of Tanzania's many tribes. He was nurtured and educated by committed Christian parents who preceded him in death. His mother, Mama Martha, was born into a family and clan of royalty in the Haya culture and history. His father, Ta Josiah, was ordained a Lutheran pastor, and later consecrated the first African Bishop of the Northwestern Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania (ELCT). His grandfather, Isaya Kibira, was one of a small band of first African Christians of Evangelical persuasion. He and a few others first heard the Gospel and learned about becoming a disciple of Jesus the Christ while on a trading visit to neighboring Uganda. They paddled their small boats on Lake Nyanza (named Lake Victoria by early English explorers) to the Church of Uganda, learning to read, write, and become followers of Jesus. They in turn became the first evangelical missionaries for the Haya people of Northwestern Tanzania. What a heritage and lineage for Josiah Mwesigwa to become a person more than Tanzanian, more than Minnesotan. He was first, foremost, and forever a loyal son of the Most High, a baptized and beloved Child of God, and lifelong companion of Jesus the Christ.

Josiah was also preceded in death by an older sister, Margreth, and two brothers, Joseph and Alexander MacKey. He is survived by his beloved and faithful family: his wife LuAnn, daughter Abela (mother of twins Emmanuel Simwinga and Enala Simwinga), daughter Namara, and son Josiah Mutabuzi. He is also survived by an older brother, Sven, sisters, Namara, Martha, and Maria and their families. There are many other Kibira cousins, nephews, and nieces, along with a great host of friends, all of us together weeping and mourning this untimely death.

No person's life can be adequately summarized with words such as this. We must turn to and cling to our memories and experiences of the departed. With Josiah Mwesigwa, we remember a man of commitment to family, friends, and the communities of faith of two continents, both the African Swahili Congregation and Holy Trinity of South Minneapolis. We remember with gratitude his clear and gentle leadership and participation in both congregations.

We also know that he was a skilled and competent worker in the field of Information Technology. He earned a Bachelor's Degree at Bethany College in Lindsborg, Kansas. Arriving there on Scholarship from Tanzania with only a couple of small suitcases to begin his new chapter as a college student in the U.S., (cont. in next column)

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



READINGS

Amos 7:7-15; Psalm 85:8-13; Ephesians 1:3-14; Mark 6:14-29

ADULT FORUM

SUNDAYS, 9:30 A.M.

Login at zoom.us or call 312-626-6799 or click here. Meeting ID: 858 5687 1594 / Password: 317879

JULY 11 "The Link " Beth Holger

The Link is a youth- and adult-led community-based non-profit in north Minneapolis. Holy Trinity member Beth Holger (CEO) and some of The Link's incredible youth leaders will tell us about their 23 programs which serve youth and young families experiencing homelessness, sex trafficking and/or involvement in the child welfare or juvenile justice system, among other challenges. This is hands-on work that makes a big difference.

See The Link's website www.thelinkmn.org and join us on Zoom.

JULY 18 Lutheran Volunteer Corps Rachel Kennedy, LVC Director

More information coming next week.

View the worship service from Sunday, July 4, here.

(Josiah Kibira, cont.) he once commented that his American college roommate was pleased to be able to use the extra space that Josiah's few possessions made available. After college, Josiah's first job was at a care facility, where he was certainly underemployed by that time. Nonetheless, Josiah's position in that care facility was auspicious because that's where he met and fell in love with an American nurse, LuAnn Okrina. In their years of marriage, now cut much too short, Josiah and LuAnn raised three children, and also continued to advance their education levels. Josiah earned a Master's in Business Administration and LuAnn trained to be a Nurse Practitioner. Their dedication to advanced learning was very strong. We also know that their careers here, though significant and worthy, were part of a higher calling to return to Josiah's deep roots in Buhaya. This dream was completely shared by LuAnn with her love of this place in Tanzania.

Dear reader of this small tribute to an outstanding man and dear friend, we will, with God's tender love and guidance, get through this stunning news and immeasurable loss. Let us not, however, be tempted to rush through this important, though painful time of grieving and bereavement. Let the ancient wisdom from Ecclesiastes remind us that this is truly a time of weeping and mourning for a loss such as this. Let us also hold fast the teaching of Jesus:

"Blessed are those who mourn...." and remember the promise that we will be comforted in the midst of our mourning. Also, remember often and repeat to yourself and others Jesus' final words to his disciples (that's us), as recorded by St. Matthew: "Surely I will be with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen, Amen, this will be so among us.

—Joel Wiberg

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES FOR ELCA YOUTH GATHERING

Applications are now being accepted for Gathering Volunteer Corps (GVC) and local volunteers. GVC applications will close on July 22. Local Volunteer applications will close when the amount of local volunteers needed is attained. For more information, view the detailed descriptions and responsibilities of each volunteer group [here](#). The youth gathering is taking place July 24-28 in Minneapolis.

JULY PILGRIMAGES WITH DEACON DAVID & INTERN MOLLIE

Choose one Tuesday in July to put your walking shoes on and join Deacon David, as well as our summer intern from Luther Seminary, Mollie Varpness, in a pilgrimage in the neighborhood surrounding the church building. The pilgrimages will take place on **Tuesday, July 20, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.** and **July 13 and 27, from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m.**

The gatherings will be limited to 25 people, so please RSVP (drojasmartinez@htlcmpls.org / 612.729.8358 ext. 19) to reserve your space. We will meet at the church building and walk around the neighborhood as a spiritual practice. For some of you, this will be an opportunity to see what was destroyed and what is being rebirthed. We will have time to reflect, pray, and debrief after our walk as we discern what God is calling us into as members of Holy Trinity.

STOP THE LINE 3 PIPELINE

Your help is urgently needed to stop the Line 3 tar sands pipeline. There are several options:

- 1) Write a short note to President Biden asking him to stop the pipeline. (See this [OP ed](#) for ideas; a sample letter is [here](#); the address and phone number are listed [here](#).) This oil pipeline's carbon footprint is the equivalent of building 50 new coal plants.
- 2) Be part of a transportation "shuttle service" for people to and from camps by filling out [this form](#)
- 3) Call Gov Walz (651-201-3400) and ask that access to the private property of Camp Namewag be restored. Police have barricaded the road, blocking the entrance and exit, and have arrested water protectors. Also, [question the DNR permit to allow Enbridge to increase](#) their de-watering permit up to **5 billion** gallons from their previous request of about **500 million** gallons, *during a drought!*

Contact Kathy Hollander (612-245-9381) with questions.

HOLY TRINITY CALENDAR

As we begin to return to in-person gatherings, we are updating a public calendar for the website where we will list church meetings, worship times, and other gatherings, events, and notable occasions. If your working group, committee, or any other group or gathering affiliated in some way with Holy Trinity meets routinely—in person or by Zoom, on or off the church campus—please let Pam or Sue know so that it can be added to the public calendar on the church's website.

PASTURES A PLENTY DELIVERY JULY 10

Their next delivery will be on Saturday July 10. Please have your order in by Thursday, July 8. You can email your order to shop@pasturesaplenty.com or you can go to www.pasturesaplenty.com and place an order. Orders can be picked up at Holy Trinity from 2:15-2:45 p.m. on July 10.

HOLY TRINITY IN THE NEWS

Pastor Ingrid Rasmussen was interviewed for an article in the Christian Science Monitor recently. You can read it [here](#).

MESSAGE FROM MN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Getting vaccinated is the surest way to get Minnesotans back to the people and activities we love!

Fact: Everyone 12+ in MN can get their vaccine.

Fact: Vaccines are no cost to you.

Fact: You can get connected to your vaccine today. <https://vaccineconnector.mn.gov>

Want your kids (12+) to enjoy summer fully? Get vaccinated together! <https://vaccineconnector.mn.gov>

We know people have many questions about COVID-19 vaccines. Learn more at www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/vaccine/basics.html

INVITATION FROM ISAIAH

ISAIAH invites Holy Trinity members to an event in which they share our vision for a Minneapolis where everyone is safe, treated with dignity, and can thrive - regardless of race, income, or zip code. Two important steps this year toward that vision are to create a new Department of Public Safety and a path to Rent Stabilization. Join us for a group forum to dig deeper around the issues of safety & housing, understand these proposed charter amendments, and get clear about the role we play in creating the future we want to see in our city.

Monday, July 26, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Location: Virtual meeting on Zoom

Register [here](#).

LIBRARY NOTES

Our library collection has grown in the last year through member donations, pandemic-safe online ordering (Moon Palace and publishers directly) and masked, distanced visits to Half-Price Books.

Listed below are just a few of the new titles. For a complete list, and to see our entire catalog, click [here](#).

For children:

This Pretty Planet, Tom Chapin

When God Made You, Matthew Paul Turner

This Is Your Time, Ruby Bridges

For adults:

Nice Racism: How Progressive White People Perpetuate Racial Harm, Robin Diangelo

The Thunder Before the Storm, Clyde Bellecourt

A Black Woman's History of the United States, Diana Ramey Berry & Kalie Nicole Gross

Also in library: *A People's History of the United States*, Howard Zinn, intro by Anthony Arnove; *An African American & Latinx History of the United States*, Paul Ortiz; *An Indigenous People's History of the United States*, Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz)

The Wisdom Pattern: Order, Disorder, Reorder, Richard Rohr

This Tender Land, William Kent Krueger

Above All, Be Kind: Raising a Humane Child in Challenging Times, Zoe Weil

The Bluest Eye, Toni Morrison

Mindfulness: Finding Peace in a Frantic World, Mark Williams & Danny Penman

The Future We Choose: Surviving the Climate Crisis, Christana Figures and Tom Rivett-Carnac

Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America, Ibram X. Kendi

Overstory, Richard Powers

On Paradise Drive: How We Live Now (and Always Have) in the Future Tense, David Brooks

You'll Never Believe What Happened to Lacey, by Amber Ruffin and Lacey Lamar

Contact roberta.shaw@yahoo.com / 651-206-6334 if you want to borrow a book or two.