



WE ACKNOWLEDGE THAT WE GATHER ON THE DAKOTA HOMELAND

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GROUNDS FOR FORGIVENESS

By Pastor Angela T. Khabeb

(reprinted from *Living Lutheran*, September 22, 2021)

My father taught me how to pray the Lord’s Prayer when I was a little girl—much too young to understand what trespasses or forgiveness meant and too young to read the words in the Bible for myself. I’ve also taught the Lord’s Prayer to my children, for two main reasons: because I promised I would at their baptisms, and because my father taught it to me.

Forgiveness is an inescapable aspect of the human condition, touching nearly every facet of our lives. Yet it seems as if the concept of God’s forgiveness has been co-opted by pop culture, which has left it somewhere between a buzzword and a spiritual practice. For people of faith, forgiveness is more than a self-help step to a better you. Forgiveness is a sacred, miraculous activity of divine origin.

However, when we hear news stories of heinous, racist acts of violence, an expectation for forgiveness often follows closely. Witness these examples.

On June 17, 2015, white supremacist and ELCA Lutheran Dylann Roof entered [Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church](#) (often called “Mother Emanuel”) in Charleston, S.C. He sat with church members for about an hour during a Bible study. After gaining the trust of his fellow Christians, Roof, hoping to initiate a “race war,” executed nine members of Mother Emanuel.

After this massacre, the families of the Emanuel Nine were immediately asked about forgiving Roof. It’s almost as if this faith community needed to prove its readiness to forgive in order to demonstrate its right to pursue justice in a domestic terrorist attack.

In 2018, Amber Guyger, a uniformed, off-duty police officer in Dallas, mistakenly entered the apartment of Botham Jean, a Black man, thinking it was her own. When she saw Jean sitting on his couch, eating ice cream, she assumed he was an intruder. She shot him twice, killing him.

During Guyger’s trial, Jean’s brother, Brandt, declared his forgiveness of her and said he didn’t want her to go to jail. He was praised by some as being an ideal Christian.

More recently, during the trial and sentencing of Derek Chauvin, I had numerous conversations and interviews during which I was asked about forgiving him.

Fortunately, forgiveness and justice aren’t mutually exclusive. They may be both/and. We can forgive someone and still hold them accountable for their actions. Isn’t that what God’s justice requires of us?

As we stand in the shadow of 9/11, I notice an absence of conversation on forgiveness. *(cont. in next column)*

NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



READINGS

Genesis 2:18-24; Psalm 8;
Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12; Mark 10:2-16

ADULT FORUM

10:00 A.M. IN THE BARTSCH ROOM

Holy Trinity Adult Forums now feature in-person presentations in the Bartsch Room, beginning at 10:00 a.m. The presentations will also be available on Zoom for those unable to attend. A link for the September 26 Adult Forum will be available soon

*ID and password remain the same:
ID 858 5687 1594; Password 317879.*

OCTOBER 3 “Biblical Text Study”

Pastor Ingrid will lead a Bible Study on the pericope texts assigned for Sunday, October 10. The readings can be found [here](#).

OCTOBER 10 “MIGIZI”

Kelly Drummer will share the work happening at [MIGIZI](#).

View the worship service from Sunday, September 26, [here](#).

As I look back over 20 years, I don’t recall demands to forgive Osama bin Laden and the perpetrators of 9/11. What strikes you when you hear the words “forgive bin Laden” or “forgive terrorists”?

Perhaps it sounds more palatable coming from our Savior. Jesus encourages us to “love your enemies, do good to those who hate you ... pray for those who abuse you” (Luke 6:27-28).

To be clear, forgiveness can’t erase pain, nor does it eliminate the need for justice. Injustice doesn’t escape God. And forgiveness isn’t easy or instantaneous. But whether we choose to move toward forgiveness or not, forgiveness remains God’s gift to us, and the spirit of God empowers us to share that gift.

I’ve prayed the Lord’s Prayer nearly every day of my life, and I’m still not sure I fully comprehend what our Savior means when he teaches us to pray, “Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.”

I may not know exactly what God’s forgiveness is, but I am sure what it is not. Forgiveness is not a weapon to be wielded against people who have experienced generations of oppression. Nor is forgiveness a distraction to deter members of the

(cont. from previous page)

nondominant culture from speaking truth to power or seeking God's justice this side of eternity.

We are able to forgive our enemies not because we feel like it or because we are so good and holy, but because Jesus entered humanity and, through his life, death and resurrection, brought forgiveness to the entire world.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS OCTOBER 3

In remembering the example of Saint Francis, we will be blessing our beloved pets on Sunday, October 3. Everyone is invited and encouraged to bring a stuffed animal, a picture of a pet, or some symbol of your beloved animal (a collar, a toy, etc.). We will bless the objects that represent our pets at both services on October 3.

If you wish to have your pet blessed *in person*, you can bring it to the church *between* services that day. From 10:00 to 10:30 a.m., rather than Sunday School, we will be blessing live animals and spending time outdoors with the pets and each other. Unfortunately, no live animals will be able to join us indoors, so please plan to take them home after the blessing.

TREATY PEOPLE WHO WALK TO PROTECT THE WATERS

Holy Trinity member Donna Goodlaxson is participating in the "We the Treaty People Who Walk to Protect the Water" route to stop Line 3 from Backus, near the Mississippi River to Gitchi Gami (aka Lake Superior), the terminus of the pipeline. You can follow the walk and learn more on the [Treaty People Walk Facebook page](#). People are encouraged to join the group anytime, especially for the culmination at Wisconsin Point on September 30. The group will be joined by local Native youth and those working to oppose Line 5—another Enbridge pipeline "replacement" through northern Wisconsin and Michigan. There is also an opportunity to participate in reparations by contributing to provide housing for Water Protectors who have no homes to return to. This is consistent with native led land back efforts. See GoFundMe: <https://gofund.me/804bca3b> to contribute. Watch for the next Public Voice newsletter to learn more about the walk and this important issue.

SO. MINNEAPOLIS MEALS ON WHEELS DELIVERY OCT. 4-8

Holy Trinity will deliver meals for SMMOW the week of October 4-8. If you're interested and able to volunteer 1-1 ½ hours at lunch time, please contact Mary Engen at 612-716-6338 or via email: engenmary@yahoo.com.



SEEKING NEW MEMBERS FOR GLORIA RINGERS!

Ringling handbells is immensely satisfying and nurtures all kinds of important connections between our mind, body, and spirit. We're looking for THREE musicians who love making music with others, and who are intrigued with the beautiful sounds that bells can produce. If you play keyboard or have studied an instrument in the past and know how to read musical notation, this opportunity will build on all those skills. Rehearsals are now on Sunday mornings between services, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. This is a *really* great collection of Holy Trinity folks who love to ring musically and with heart. Please email Director Ann Schrooten via text 612-309-9583 or by email at aschrooten@htlcmpls.org.

THE PORTER SISTERS AT THE NE FARMER'S MARKET

Kelsey and Kaia Porter will be playing live music at the NE Farmer's Market on October 9 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., 629 2nd St NE. They will play a variety of acoustic songs, combining guitar, ukulele, violin, and layered vocal harmonies to create a spirited, folksy sound. If you'd like to swing by, they'd love to see you there!

GIVING STATEMENTS DISTRIBUTED

Giving statements showing contributions entered through August 30, 2021, were emailed to you on September 24. If you don't use email, your statement was sent via US Mail. Apologies for the delay in getting your statements out to you.

BIG MEETING NIGHT IN OCTOBER

Our Big Meeting Nights in October will be Thursday, October 7 and Tuesday, October 12. As usual, group messages start at 6:45 p.m. and breakout into individual committee meeting rooms at 7:00 p.m.

STEPPING OUT IN FAITH OUR SHARED COMMUNITY

For several months, the Stepping Out in Faith Our Shared Community group, as directed by the Church Council, has looked for creative ways to use some of the proceeds received from the Trinity Apartments sale to help Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC)-led institutions, families, and individuals build wealth equity in our community.

As a pilot initiative in that effort, the group worked with Pastor Angela and Benhi Khabeb, to help them realize their dream of homeownership. The Khabeb's identified a home in Longfellow that meets the needs of their family. In early September, Stepping Out in Faith purchased the home, facilitated some needed repairs, and then sold it to the Khabeb's at below market rate. On September 17, the Khabeb's officially became first time home buyers and ten days later they are set to spend their first night in their new home. "It's a dream come true," Pastor Angela said.

The group viewed this type of home purchase and sale as an act of reparations: a call to repair for moral and material harms. In this case, it is a small way to chip away the home ownership gap in Minneapolis, which is the worst in the nation. If you are planning to sell your home and would like to talk with the Stepping Out in Faith Our Share Community group about participating in the work of reparations, please contact Allison Johnson Heist or Pastor Ingrid.

NOMINATE A GREAT LEADER TO SERVE ON THE COUNCIL

This year's Nominating Committee (made up of the outgoing Council members and the at-large members elected at last year's annual meeting) will soon start to discern a slate of new Council members. If you would like to nominate a leader to serve on Holy Trinity's Church Council, please send their name and a brief description of their leadership to Tom Cahoy (chair).

SUMMARY OF 20 SEPT. COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

- Gratitude expressed for open arms and warm welcome as we begin to meet in person; the congregation's strong financial giving; time and expertise of the COVID team helping to guide decisions to keep our community safe and healthy; the benefit of parental leave; David Sims.
- Committee reports highlights included:
 - * Nicki Hines elected to serve as chair of the Personnel Committee.
 - * Trinity on Lake monthly meals have resumed.
 - * Care of Creation anticipates completion of solar panel project by end of October; watch for LED campaign updates.
 - * Stepping Out in Faith Our Shared Home, Care of Creation, and Racial Justice group have been in conversation about the work ahead.
- The Council will soon reach out to all committees with the invitation to align 2022 action plans with congregational goals.
- The Nominating Committee will soon begin to identify potential nominees for upcoming Church Council vacancies, which include four three-year terms and one one-year term.
- Closing question asked of all Council members: Is there something in the workings/functions of HTLC that you would like to know more about? The questions will be used to inform upcoming articles and other communications.

ADULT CHOIRS SCHEDULE AND OPPORTUNITIES

During our search for the next Adult Choir Director/Cantor, there will continue to be opportunities for adults in our community to make music together! Beginning Wednesday, September 29, Ann Schrooten will be offering a weekly Wednesday afternoon rehearsal from 1:30-3:00 p.m. for Adult Choir and Trinity Singer members, and other singers who may find this afternoon time more convenient.

We will prepare music for TWO upcoming *SINGS!* on October 24 and November 21 (10 a.m. rehearsal, sing at 11 a.m.) and we will explore the treasure of new hymns and songs included in the *ALL CREATION SINGS* Hymn Supplement, which Rachel Trelstad-Porter (our Interim Worship Keyboardist) and I hope to introduce to the congregation in the coming weeks. For those singers unable to commit to weekly rehearsals, but longing to sing with a group again, please plan to join us on those two Sunday *SINGS!* You will be met with a very warm welcome and beautiful choral music to sing. Please contact Ann Schrooten by text at 612-309-9583 or via email: aschrooten@htlcmpls.org to sign up or to receive more information.

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS TO BE SCHEDULED ON OCTOBER 22

If you serve as a worship ministry volunteer, please make time to go into the Ministry Scheduler Pro (MSP) app *before* October 22 to block out any dates for November and December that you are unable to serve, or to claim any services where you know you would like to serve. Auto-scheduler will schedule you appropriately.

You will notice that December includes Wednesday evening Advent and Christmas Eve services, in addition to regular Sundays. If you are not marked in MSP as Inactive or you haven't entered dates that you are unable to serve, MSP will auto schedule you for positions you're qualified to serve in. Please let Pam in the office know if you need help or a refresher.

HELP US SPREAD THE WORD

Holy Trinity is a healthy, vibrant, financially stable, growing, COVID-conscious, urban faith community in the Longfellow neighborhood of South Minneapolis. We are nurtured for our life and ministry together through participatory worship, meaningful music, prophetic preaching, and varied educational and relational opportunities. In turn, these provide motivation and energy for neighborhood and global involvement through which God's grace is proclaimed, God's forgiveness is extended, and God's justice is sought. While we are firmly rooted in Lutheran liturgical traditions, we strive to honor a variety of artistic and musical expressions in our worship services.

We are seeking a Director of Adult Choirs (15 hours per week) and an Organist/Pianist (20 hours per week). The same candidate may apply for both and serve as Cantor (30 hours/week with benefits). Congregants are invited to share these opportunities widely (e.g., with friends, on social media). The position descriptions can be found on the church website:

[\(https://htlcmpls.org/seeking-director-of-adult-choirs-and-organist-pianist/\)](https://htlcmpls.org/seeking-director-of-adult-choirs-and-organist-pianist/).



BECOME A MEMBER OF HOLY TRINITY

At Holy Trinity we believe that community is integral to faith, which is why we invite interested persons to consider membership in this congregation. If you or someone you know is interested in formalizing your relationship with our community, please let one of the pastors know, or contact the office at office@htlcmpls.org. Several households have already indicated their interest. The Spirit works in amazing ways!

PARISH EVENTS OCTOBER 3-9

Sunday	8:45 am	Worship Service of Holy Communion
	10:00 am	Blessing of the Animals
	10:00 am	Adult Forum
	10:00 am	Gloria Ringers Rehearse
	11:00 am	Worship Service of Holy Communion
	2:00 pm	Swahili Service
Tuesday	11:00 am	Worship Readings Discussion
Wednesday	1:30 pm	Adult Choir
	6:00 pm	Children's Choir
	6:45 pm	Cantate!
Thursday	6:45 pm	Big Meeting Night
Friday	10:00 am	Liturgical Furnishings Committee

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS FOR OCTOBER 3, 2021

<u>8:45 AM</u>		<u>11:00 AM</u>
David Rojas Martinez	Preacher	David Rojas Martinez
Ingrid Rasmussen	Presiding Minister	Ingrid Rasmussen
	Crucifer	Paul Chindvall
Bob Hulteen	Assisting Minister	Debra Anderson
Sally and David Kohlstedt, Chris Engen, David Broberg	Ushers	Kathy Ohler, Kayden Nordby, Bob and Helen Norheim, Kathy Hollander, Rod Johnson
David Kohlstedt, Pam Blomgren	Counters	Wayne Vetter, Deb Helmel
	Closer	Roberta Shaw