



WE ACKNOWLEDGE THAT WE GATHER ON THE DAKOTA HOMELAND

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Ingrid C. A. Rasmussen and Doug Mork, Pastors; David Rojas Martinez, Deacon

Sabbatical

The flowering tree outside my church office is in full bloom. It's beautiful. So beautiful, in fact, that it stopped me in my tracks on my way into the building this morning. I wanted to



capture the goodness of it, so I tried to take pictures from a variety of angles. Hard as I tried, I couldn't quite catch all the glory in a single frame. I had to put my iPhone down, step back, take a mental snapshot, and store the picture in my mind's eye.

In both my personal and professional lives, I find that oftentimes I'm viewing things from too close a distance. Sometimes I don't even

recognize that I've been "wearing my readers" for far too long, but then someone invites me to step back and take in what prophet Oscar Romero calls "the long view."

Sabbatical leaves allow employees to engage in this movement—that is, to step back to take in the larger or more expansive view. Holy Trinity has long had a sabbatical policy for clergy, though the benefit has rarely been granted over the congregation's long history. Just over a year ago, the Personnel Committee made the bold decision to expand sabbatical leaves to all staff—both full-time and part-time, ordained and lay—after every fifth or sixth year of service. This commitment allows us to live more fully into our equity commitments.

This summer, I'll take the second half of my sabbatical during the months of July and August, returning in time for Renewal Sunday (formerly known as Rally Sunday) on September 10. Thanks to a grant we received from the Lilly Foundation, Pastor Doug's hours will be increased in my absence, and he'll capably serve as head of staff. I'm overjoyed to report that Nolan Gusdal (Building Maintenance, 14 years of service) will also take a sabbatical this summer and that Dennis Nordholm (Evening Custodian, 6 years of service) will take a sabbatical this fall. We are arranging coverage for

(continued on next page)

Seventh Sunday of Easter



READINGS

*Acts 1:6-14; Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35;
1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11; John 17:1-11*

ADULT FORUM

Holy Trinity Adult Forums feature in-person presentations beginning at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday. The presentations are also available via [Zoom](#) for those unable to attend in person. ID 858 5687 1594; Password 317879.

May 21 "Guns, God, and Prayer"
Randy Nelson

Conversation among ourselves about what we believe.

May 28 Memorial Day Weekend—No Adult Forum

We begin our summer schedule on Sunday, June 4, with one worship service each Sunday at 10:00 a.m. The Adult Forum will take place after the service beginning at 11:15 a.m. with coffee, etc. available in the Library. The forum for Sunday, June 4, will feature the film *Dawnland*. More information will be available in next week's Community Church.

NOTES FROM THE MAY 16 COUNCIL MEETING

In the very busy May Council meeting, the group:

- Learned about Holy Trinity's new approach to sabbatical: as of 2022, Holy Trinity offers a regular sabbatical to both clergy and lay staff. Several staff members have upcoming sabbaticals, including Pastor Ingrid, Nolan Gusdal, and Dennis Nordholm.
- Approved spending an additional \$100,000 of the funds from Stepping Out in Faith - Our Shared Home, to be used for completing sanctuary updates that are already underway: audio system, improved lighting, pew chairs to replace the first two pews, and "pray-ground" that will live where the children's table currently is.
- Discussed the next steps for the other recommendations from the Our Shared Home working group.
- Celebrated the contributions of Mike Nevergall, who will be leaving the Council due to his family's upcoming relocation. The Council will have only eleven members until January, when Mike's term was set to complete.

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Nolan and Dennis' job responsibilities while they are away.

Sabbaticals are rooted in our understanding of Sabbath—that is, time set apart. The former pastor at Plymouth Congregational Church, Jim Gertmenian, writes about this faith command, saying, “Sabbath is a time of rest in which we cease from purposeful activity in order to be reminded that it is God who animates and gives purpose to the universe, not we ourselves. Sabbath is a deep sigh—sometimes lasting a few minutes and sometimes extending over days and weeks—in which we are reminded that we do not have to be in charge, that we are not responsible for holding the world up or even for holding ourselves together. Sabbath is a hearty laugh over the notion that we ever thought ourselves capable of doing either of those things, a benign cosmic chortle about our human pretensions and self-importance. Sabbath is a tender lullaby in which our Mother draws from inexhaustible wells of love, singing to us that we are valued simply for being, not for what we produce or achieve. Sabbath is both respite and relief, pause and perspective, interlude and invitation. One does not deserve Sabbath; one receives Sabbath. One does not *earn* a sabbatical; one is *given* a sabbatical. So when the gift is given, gratitude is the only possible response; anything else would smack of an attempt to justify... Sabbath is unalloyed grace—a gift uncompromised either by need or merit.”

Thank you, Holy Trinity, for this holy gift, for valuing the long view, and for embodying the grace that stands at the center of our lives.

With gratitude,

Pastor Ingrid

A FUN AND SUCCESSFUL “IT’S NOT WINTER” CELEBRATION

We count it an honor and a joy to be a part of the Longfellow neighborhood. We give thanks to God who gathers us for times of joy. Last Saturday we danced, sang, laughed, chatted, ate, and broke some piñatas!

We celebrated that “It’s Not Winter!” anymore.

Thank you to the neighborhood for making this event such a success, and thank you to our very own Swahili Christian congregation for helping us to have some fun praising the Creator.



SUNDAY SCHOOL AND CONFIRMATION REFLECTIONS AND GRATITUDE

On Sunday April 30, we celebrated the end of our formal education year for Sunday School and Confirmation classes at Holy Trinity. On that morning, we gathered in the basement lunchroom for conversation and treats. Before doling out slices of cake, we asked the children and youth in attendance a few questions. I often mention that the best theologians in house are our children and youth, and I am not kidding! On that day, when asked what one thing they remembered learning this past year was, a student in Godly Play (pre-K ages) shouted, “Church is fun! We get to learn fun stories.” We give thanks to God for Kay Buzza and her volunteers who teach this age group. After this wisdom was shared, a student from Trinity Village (grades 1-5) mentioned that she had learned that, “We can pray to God anywhere at all times.” We give thanks to God for Rachel Nevergall, Jenni Vaillancourt, Gretchen Lund, Maggie Weiss, Marcia Floding, and Noëlle Morrell who teach this age group. Finally, a confirmation student (grades 6-9) shared that he had learned that, “God is love, and we do not have to be afraid.” I am so grateful for the opportunity to teach this age group. It is my prayer that our Sunday School classes and Confirmation group will become even more robust so that we can continue to share the good news of Jesus with the youngest among us, and learn from them!

SHIFTING THE SPOTLIGHT—REV. DR. OTIS MOSS III AND SOUNDS OF BLACKNESS, THURSDAY, MAY 25

Being a white ally means playing a supporting role as BIPOC people take center stage. During this historic shift, how can white Christians embrace roles where they cease to be the stars of the film but are instead cast as extras – people whose advancement of the plot is good but not essential to the future? And how can BIPOC people regain agency and become the leaders they are meant to be?

On the third anniversary of the murder of George Floyd, Minnesota Council of Churches invites people of faith to an evening with music from Sounds of Blackness and a prophetic word from Rev. Dr. Otis Moss III. This event is organized in partnership with the George Floyd family and will conclude in time for participants to join the evening candlelight vigil scheduled at George Floyd Square. Sponsored by The Minneapolis Foundation. The event runs from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Plymouth Congregational Church, Minneapolis (1900 Nicollet Ave. S.).

~ Concerning People ~

We pray today for all those in need of God’s tender care, especially those who face illness, sorrow, or hard times. We remember especially **Sharon Clappier; Rosie Stalsberg; Dorothy Kelly; Cori Gershon; Mark Symchych; Carol Kelly.**

LONGFELLOW SCHOOL NOTES

MESSAGE TO HOLY TRINITY FROM PADMINI UDUPA, PRINCIPAL AT LONGFELLOW

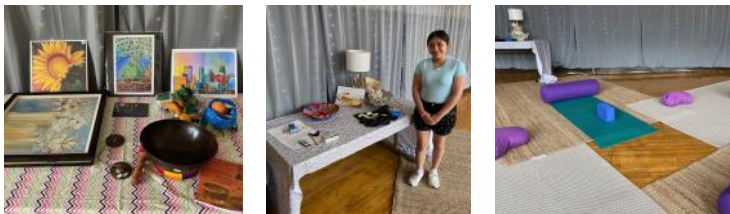
I am retiring on June 30 this year. I would like to thank you and all those who supported Longfellow the school it has become. With your generous help and the caring and prayers we can say our girls and babies are doing well. I would like to share few updates:

- The foundation will continue and I, along with the board, will continue to help Longfellow moms and babies. This fall we did drivers education classes for moms to learn how to do safe driving. We also provided rent deposits to students who are now established in a new apartment. We will again give scholarships to students who graduate this year.
- Thanks to the generosity of Mr. Matthew Floding, we were able to train all staff in mindfulness activity with the help of Marian Johnson from Bakken Center at the University of Minnesota. We have created a room in our school for students and staff to practice mindfulness and other mind and body wellness activities.
- Two of our students completed their training for two years in college and are now hired by Minneapolis Public Schools to work in schools.
- Every semester we are sending around seven students to Minneapolis Community College to get college experience and continue their further studies.
- The volunteers are doing an excellent job connecting with students, knitting with them, and helping the students feel at home.

Thank you for supporting and making the holiday seasons special for our students. I appreciate and value our partnership and hope to see it continue with the next principal.

MEDITATION AND MINDFULNESS ROOM

Thanks to the generosity from Matt Floding from the church, Longfellow Alternative High School was able to train all staff in mindfulness activity with the help of Marian Johnson from Bakken Center from the University of Minnesota. The school has now created a room in our school for students and staff to practice mindfulness and other mind and body wellness activities.



LONGFELLOW HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION, JUNE 8

Longfellow High School graduation is June 8, 5:30 p.m. There will be 29 graduates. This takes place at Anne Sullivan School. It is an inspiring event. You are welcome to attend.

SUMMER BOOK READING

BOOK GROUP WITH PASTOR INGRID THROUGHOUT JUNE

As a progressive parish minister, Molly Baskette has been a companion during the most vulnerable, traumatized, and unsettled periods of many people's lives. She has also had a front row seat to remarkable human transformation, as many of the ruptures her people lived through turned out to be the way that God got in. But when she was diagnosed with an aggressive cancer at age thirty-nine, with two small children, her theology of and relationship to God was tested more profoundly than ever.

Instead of becoming despondent, though, she engaged with her faith more deeply—seizing the opportunity to test the seaworthiness of the faith she had been practicing and preaching. In *How to Begin When Your World is Ending*, Baskette shares the questions that confronted her along the way like: Is it true that prayer changes things? Does God care whether we live or die—and is there a damn thing God can do about it anyway? How can vulnerability, counter-intuitively, be a strength? And the million-dollar question: is there life after death, and just what might it be like?

Weaving together her own story and the stories of those she encountered in her life of faith, Baskette mines joy from all the hardest parts of being human. In doing so she reminds us that whatever you are going through, someone has been there before you and found meaning in the chaos.

Books are available in the Community Room for those interested in joining the discussion. Pastor Ingrid will send out a short reflection by email each Monday morning. The group is invited to gather for one in-person gathering on Arbeiter's patio on the evening of June 22. Further details will be sent to participants. Sign up in the Community Room by May 31.

SUMMER BOOK READ

Caring for Creation is sponsoring a summer book read—*Saving Us: A Climate Scientist's Case for Hope and Healing in a Divided World*. We'll meet for backyard discussion gatherings every other Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. from June 14 - July 12. Books have been ordered and will be available in the Community Room soon. A signup sheet and book synopsis are in the Community Room.

LIBRARY NOTES: FREE BOOKS

In the hallway outside the library you'll find an array of books that are free for the taking. Please help yourself, there is something for everyone.

RECYCLING AND COMPOSTING

Beginning this Sunday, to help us all "Be a Good Recycler" you'll see 3 distinct bins in the community room. The typical bin for trash, the familiar blue bin for recycling and a new GREEN bin for composting. Each bin will be clearly marked. This is the first step of a few that will be implemented over the coming months to help reduce waste and our impact on the environment.

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS FOR SUNDAY, MAY 21, 2023

8:45 AM		11:00 AM
David Rojas Martinez	Preacher	David Rojas Martinez
Ingrid Rasmussen	Presiding Minister	Ingrid Rasmussen
	Crucifer	Wayne Vetter
Drew Lindorfer	Cantor	Drew Lindorfer
Carol Masters	Assisting Minister	Scott Cole
Andrea Martin, Linda Berglin, Joyce Peterson	Communion	Deb Anderson, Stephanie Cole, David Krig
Steve Murray, David Broberg, Sally and David Kohlstedt	Ushers	Helen and Bob Norheim, Chris Amundson, Jeff Olsen Biebighauser
Josh Becker, Anne Beschnett	Altar Guild	Kathryn Howe, Doris Gbala
Jean Swanson, Kevin Proescholdt	Coffee Servers	Katy Benson, Nicki Hines
Pam Blomgren, Joyce Peterson	Counters	Deb Helmel, Wayne Vetter
	Closer	Bob Hulteen

PARISH EVENTS MAY 21—MAY 27, 2023

Sunday, May 21	8:45 AM	Worship Service of Holy Communion
	10:00 AM	Supervised Play Time
	11:00 AM	Worship Service of Holy Communion
	2:00 PM	Swahili Service
Tuesday, May 16	11:00 AM	Worship Readings Discussion
Friday, May 19	9:00 AM	Spiritual Companion Group

NEW SUMMER SCHEDULE BEGINS MAY 28

Between Memorial Day weekend and Labor Day weekend, the 8:45 and 11:00 a.m. worship services will join together for one service at 10:00 a.m. The summer season affords us the opportunity to see and to connect with members and friends from “the other service.”

LIVESTREAM LINKS FOR WORSHIP SERVICES

A [live-stream](#) of the 11:00 a.m. Sunday service is available online at 10:55 a.m. You can access recordings of previous worship services [here](#).

