



WE ACKNOWLEDGE THAT WE GATHER ON THE DAKOTA HOMELAND

2730 E. 31st Street Minneapolis, MN 55406 • 612-729-8358 • office@htlcmpls.org • www.htlcmpls.org
Ingrid C. A. Rasmussen and Doug Mork, Pastors; David Rojas Martinez, Deacon

REFLECTIONS ON *FIRE BY NIGHT*: CHAPTERS 10-11

Metaphor describes something by saying something else. It is not meant to be taken literally. “One metaphor for God in the Old Testament is fire. . . .God as the fire lighting the way, ablaze in awe and fear, wonder and hope.” Florer-Bixler’s hope for us is that the stories of the OT “set us ablaze with God’s love”(18).

One’s social location and experiences bring different understandings. The title of chapter 10, “God of the Table,” took me to Communion/God’s Table, a table of hospitality extended to all. Even the scripture (Genesis 18:1-2), of Abraham inviting three strangers in for food, seemed to fit. Offering hospitality to strangers, immigrants, and others was a cultural norm in OT days. The author is a Mennonite pastor. Mennonites have no sacraments, they view Communion as a symbol or sign “by which the church thankfully remembers the new covenant which Jesus established by his death” (mennoniteusa.org/Article 12).



We learn much from different perspectives. Florer-Bixler’s chosen scripture led her to an icon by Rublev from the 15th century that is interpreted to be a presentation of the Trinity (God, Christ, Holy Spirit) in the persons of the three strangers. Sharing her perspective on the story of Abraham today, and looking for God’s message for us, she reminds us that we will never entirely understand. We interpret as best we can, yet welcome mystery as well— what is beyond our knowing. We can learn more of God as Trinity in her telling. (Read all of Genesis 18). God’s love is shown in the three strangers, and in the everyday offering of food. “You were put here in love to love because you are God’s beloved,” (161). Concluding Chapter 10, the author notes that it is the shared meal of communion that led her to see the story of Abraham’s table and the strangers as representative of the Trinity.

Chapter 11, “God of Friendship,” Florer-Bixler approached through the story of Naomi and Ruth (Ruth 1:22— read all of Ruth 1). When Naomi’s husband and married sons die, she encourages her daughters-in-law to go back to their families. They were young and accustomed to the culture of Moab, their home. One elects to stay in Moab; the other, Ruth, chooses to go with Naomi to her people, in Judah. One settled

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NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

READINGS

1 Kings 3:5-12; Psalm 119:129-136;
Romans 8:26-39; Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

ADULT FORUM

Holy Trinity Adult Forums feature in-person presentations beginning at 11:15 a.m. on Sunday. The presentations are also available via [Zoom](#) for those unable to attend in person. ID 858 5687 1594; Password 317879.

July 30 “Removing Racial Covenants”

Rachel Broeke, Executive Director at LLC

Join Rachel Broeke, the Executive Director of the Longfellow Community Council, for a presentation on Minneapolis’ racial covenants and how to research and remove them.

August 6 “Our Amazing Universe — God’s Creation”

Bob Ochtrup

Bob Ochtrup, whose love of photography and astronomy have combined to produce the exhibit on the wonders of the universe that is on display in the Community Room and the Library, will introduce us to his work.

NOTES FROM THE JULY 18 COUNCIL MEETING

In the July Council meeting, the group met in person at Holy Trinity to enjoy food together before addressing several orders of business:

- Learning about the pastors’ efforts to connect with Holy Trinity members who have been less connected the last few years
- Reviewing and providing feedback for a statement created by the Israel / Palestine Committee
- Reviewing the Call Committee’s recommendation to call Deacon David and making a plan to move the process forward

~ 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 pray for **Pam Wetterlund**, recovering from a car accident; **Deb Anderson**, recovering from surgery; **Mary Paavola**, recovering from a fall; **Dorothy Kelly**; **Cori Gershon**; **Mark Symchych**.

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for what was familiar for her; the other was open to change and growth. Love made a new family for Naomi and Ruth. Friendship grows outside of the familiar— allowing one to grow, to expand to new possibilities. The author sees in it the story of survival of women through time, from trauma through hope, with God’s love and leading, to friendship, to new life. It was refreshing and encouraging to read through a woman’s eyes. For too long we lacked the perspective of women regarding the stories in the Bible!

Florer-Bixler’s metaphor of fire setting us ablaze with a passion for God and for the Word is apt. Read the Old Testament. It is the story of the lives of the Israelites from 1200-165 BC; their interpretation and understanding of God. We who grew up thinking the stories were only full of violence, destruction, and a judgmental, punitive God were wrong. Keep reading and you will see a God of love and faithfulness in the stories. We need the stories today. Why? Consider: from sling shots and giants (David and Goliath) to missiles and drones (Russia and Ukraine). Is it any different today? Think of 2023. The story of our time; see not just violence and destruction but God’s love and faithfulness that endures forever.

One author, four readers writing their reflections. God’s word continues to speak anew to us. Stories hold multiple meanings. We each hear with a different ear and heart and experience. What is God saying to you?

~ Reflection by Joyce Besser



Blood Drive Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Minneapolis

Community Room
2730 East 31st St.
Minneapolis, MN 55406

**Wednesday, August 23, 2023
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**



We have 34 appointment spots to fill, please consider donating and helping to save lives. [CLICK HERE](#) to sign up or contact the office (office@htlcmpls.org or [612-729-8358](tel:612-729-8358)). You can also scan the QR code above with your smart phone.

HAPPENING THIS WEEK

SUMMER POP-UP CHOIR SUNDAY, JULY 30

This is your second opportunity to sing as a choir in worship this summer. Everyone is welcome, from those who can’t commit to weekly rehearsals during the school year but have always wanted to sing, to those who have sung in choirs for years. (Family and friends who are visiting are also welcome!) Rehearse at 9:00 a.m. in the sanctuary for the 10:00 a.m. worship service. No preparation needed.

KNITTING GROUP TUESDAY, AUGUST 1, 2:00 P.M.

Knitters (and crocheters!) are invited to bring their knitting or crochet projects to Holy Trinity on the first Tuesday of each month at 2:00 p.m. All are welcome to join in for needlework and conversation. For more information, contact Liz Blood (liz.bill.blood@gmail.com).

THURSDAY, AUGUST 3—LONGFELLOW SUMMER SING

After five weeks of Longfellow Summer Sing rehearsals, the group will present a short presentation of music on Thursday, August 3, at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. Stop by to support friends, family who might be singing or just come to enjoy the music.

SAVE THE DATE

SUNDAY, AUGUST 13—MUSIC IN THE GARDEN

There will be no adult forum on August 13. All are invited to join musician Nathaniel Gillen (<https://nathanielgillen.bandcamp.com/album/young>) for music and food in the garden at 11:00 a.m. (immediately following the 10:00 a.m. worship service). \$5 suggested donation for lunch; however, don’t let the money keep you away from the fun. All are welcome!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL AUGUST 14-17, 2023, 9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

We are planning four days of learning about faith-filled responses to injustices in our neighborhood and greater society. There will be music, food, games, stories, and lots more every day of VBS! Please consider volunteering one hour, one morning, one day, or four days of your time throughout the week. We will need help with preparing/serving lunches, child supervision, and helping with crafts. Contact Deacon David (drojasmartinez@htlcmpls.org) or Cantor Phil (pradtke@htlcmpls.org) if you can help.

Please call the office to register ([612-729-8358](tel:612-729-8358)). We hope you will consider joining us!

SUNDAY, AUGUST 27, 5 P.M.—ALL CONGREGATION PICNIC

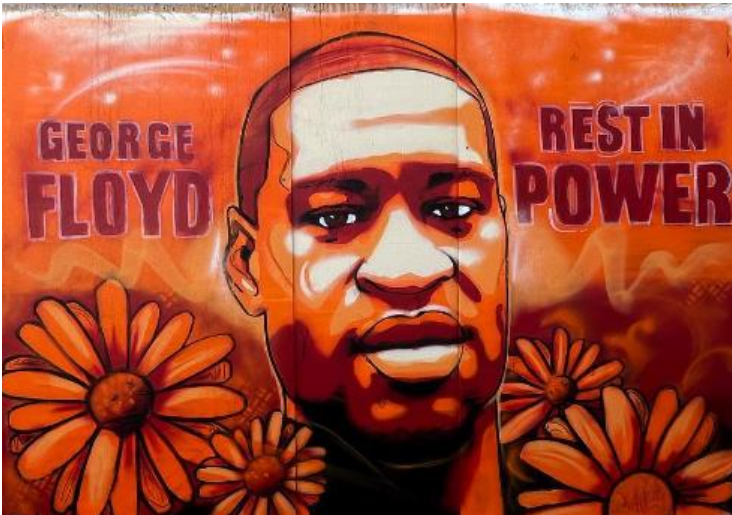
As summer wanes, all in the Holy Trinity family are welcome to gather for fun, food and frolic at Hidden Falls Park on Sunday, August 27, at 5:00 p.m. for a potluck picnic. Please bring a dish to share. Lemonade and ice water will be provided. We plan to eat at 5:30 p.m.. Provisions include compostable plates, cups, utensils and paper towels. There is a restroom, and electrical outlets are available. Activities: lots of open space for kids’ activities, and a covered pavilion for seating, eating and conversation. Hidden Falls Park is located in St. Paul, very close to the Ford Bridge and easy to find. Parking available.

AROUND THE COMMUNITY

REMEMBER AND REFLECT: STREET ART BOARDS FROM THE GEORGE FLOYD UPRISING

Becketwood Cooperative will host a free outdoor exhibit of street art boards that were created during the uprising following the killing of George Floyd. Titled *Remember and Reflect: Plywood Art From the George Floyd Uprising*, the exhibit will take place on Saturday, August 5, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on the grounds of Becketwood, 4300 West River Parkway, Minneapolis.

The boards are provided by *Save the Boards Minneapolis* whose founder, Kenda Zellner-Smith, will give a presentation at 12:30 p.m.. *Save the Boards'* vision is to uplift local artists and serve as a safe space for community education, reflection, and storytelling, allowing viewers to connect with art through their own experiences, voices, and personal journeys. The band Brass Solidarity, which was founded in 2021 in response to the movement for Black lives, will also perform. This event is an initiative of Becketwood, a welcoming 55+ cooperative community located on 12 acres across from the Mississippi River.



THE PATH TO PEACE: MUSIC AGAINST GUN VIOLENCE

The Path to Peace: Music Against Gun Violence is a choral program and community gathering initiative presented in partnership with Protect Minnesota, the only independent, state-based organization devoted to gun violence prevention in Minnesota. The spiritual successor to last year's *REQUIEM: A Concert for Gun Reform*, this year's project features expanded community outreach program and a focus on action and education.

We invite you to lend your voice to this project, [click here](#) for details

The choral program will center of Maurice Duruflé's *Requiem* and take place at 7p.m0, Saturday, August 12.

Freewill donations (suggested donation \$20) accepted at the door. All proceeds will go to funding gun reform and advocacy efforts in the state of Minnesota.

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL FAMILY FUN NIGHT!

The heat didn't stop several families and neighbors from enjoying food and water games!



COTTAGE MEETINGS

COTTAGE MEETINGS COME TO A CLOSE

The last one happened Tuesday. We truly appreciate those who have hosted and all who have participated. In the coming weeks, we'll share a link for folks to offer feedback to help up improve the process for future Cottage Meetings.

Please enjoy a few photos from final two gatherings!



Beautiful evening. Lots of fun and a community building game—Guess Who?

~Matt Floding



We imbibed in Tinto Verano (which is like a Spanish Sangria) on the back deck. Actually, the kids had an alternate beverage. We then moved to AC in the house and strawberry shortcake with berries picked that morning. Conversation was lively as we met each other and then shared a few tidbits about our lives (past and present) and what we'd do if we won the lottery (lots of creative ideas!)

~Libby Olstad

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS FOR SUNDAY, JULY 30, 2023

Preacher	David Rojas Martinez
Presiding Minister	Doug Mork
Crucifer	Katie Schroeder
Assisting Minister	Margaret Kelly
Communion	Rick Liedholm, Sean Gosiewski, Matt Floding
Ushers	Ginny and Chuck Jordan, Kathy Hollander, Rod Johnson
Altar Guild	Vicki Bergman, Kathryn Howe
Coffee Servers	Bob and Jane Aldrich
Counters	Julie Cahoy, Deb Helmel
Closer	Roberta Shaw

Our beloved handbells have been shipped off to Colorado for repair and will be ready by September. Thank you to all who contributed to this important project.



PARISH EVENTS JULY 30-AUGUST 5, 2023

Sunday, July 30	10:00 AM 11:15 AM 2:00 PM	Worship Service of Holy Communion Adult Forum Swahili Service
Tuesday, August 1	11:00 AM 2:00 PM	Worship Readings Discussion Knitting Group
Thursday, Augst 3	6:00 PM 6:45 PM	Longfellow Summer Sing Big Meeting Night

LIVESTREAM LINKS FOR WORSHIP SERVICES

A [live-stream](#) of the 10:00 a.m. Sunday service is available online at 9:55 a.m. You can access recordings of previous worship services [here](#).

