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Ingrid C. A. Rasmussen and Doug Mork, Pastors; David Larson-Martínez, Deacon

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

It was a joy to gather for Vacation Bible School (VBS) from Monday, August 14, through Thursday August 17. On our most well-attended day we had 14 total participants! It made for a fun, full house. We had four jam-packed days of learning, singing, playing, and serving. I am extremely grateful for all the caring adult and teenager volunteers who made this event a success. Folks helped with greeting, craft-making, and lunch among many other miscellaneous activities. I am so thankful for the community who rose to help!

We gathered under the theme of *Fires of Justice* because this is the first VBS since pre-pandemic and pre-Uprising times. On our first day, we walked around the neighborhood in pilgrimage visiting the sites that were impacted by the fires in 2020. I was impressed by the level of maturity and thoughtfulness exhibited by all our participants. The youngest are currently five years of age and the oldest thirteen. They all brought memories, feelings, and thoughts concerning what they remembered, what they hoped for, and how they could be a part of what comes next. As we continued through the week, we learned a very truncated version of 1 Corinthians 3:13: "The work of each builder will become visible, for the Day will disclose it; revealing it with fire..." which reminds us that Truth will show the kind of things we build (and where they fail), including our societies.

As we took note of those things which need mending, we participated in a variety of small actions with a big impact. We created 55 to-go bags for unhoused neighbors. We learned about the importance of noticing skin color and speaking up when different skin tones are overlooked. We helped to clean up trash around the church grounds. We also chalked the sidewalks with positive, welcoming messages for our neighbors to encounter. Each time that we switched to a new activity I was encouraged by the enthusiasm, openness, and maturity displayed by all the participants. They were willing to ask difficult questions and engage with topics that some adults eschew. Not only that, but they taught me things I am still learning: the fluidity of pronouns, the joy of rainbow colors, and the opportunity to laugh through difficult conversations. We had a lot of fun during our time together.

I remember a parent commenting that he had never seen so many beach balls flying around in a church sanctuary before. In making the building accessible to the youngest, we spent lots of time playing hide-and-go-seek, Battleship, and other games in the sanctuary space. Our youngest enjoyed using the pews as ships, the altar as a hiding space, and the place where we encounter God as a sacred yet fun space. Cantor Phil

(continued on next page)



FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

READINGS

*Exodus 3:1-15; Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b;
Romans 12:9-21; Matthew 16:21-28*

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.

September 3 Ukraine: War and Resistance

Panel discussion and lunch

We are hosting the photojournalism exhibit "Ukraine: War and Resistance" until September 10 in the Community Room. A panel will highlight the courageous work of award-winning photojournalists and discuss the current situation. Several Ukrainians will be there to lead discussion and there will be luncheon platters from Kramarczuk's Eastern European Deli. A free will offering and donations will go directly to Rebuild Ukraine, a non-profit that contributes directly to Ukrainian civilians and programs. For more information contact Sally (sgk@umn.edu).

SEE MORE INFORMATION ON PAGE 3.

September 10 No Adult Forum

Special congregational meeting at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

OLIVE OIL FROM THE MOUNT OF OLIVES

Bottles of fresh olive oil are available in two sizes: 250mL bottles for \$15 and 750 mL bottles for \$35. Purchases support the work of the Lutheran World Federation vocational training program and reduce student fees. Brought to you by the Palestine-Israel Working group. Contact the [office](#) to purchase.



~ Concerning People ~

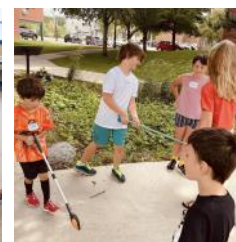
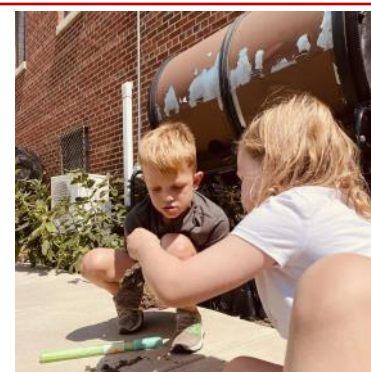
We pray today for all those in need of God's tender care, especially those who face illness, sorrow, or hard times. We pray for **Margaret Peterson, Mary Paavola; Dorothy Kelly; Cori Gershon; and Mark Symchych.**

added to the joy by teaching our participants a variety of songs. One of the many memories I will treasure from this VBS is observing all the young folks gathered around Phil and the piano, singing about standing beside each other and never letting anyone stand alone.

Thank you to our congregation and community parents who trusted their children and youth to us for VBS this year. It was a joy for me to gather with each one of them for four days for learning, singing, playing, and serving. There is so much more that I could write about (and many things I have surely forgotten), so please do ask our young ones what they remember from their time at VBS! I'm positive that it will bring a smile to your face. Also, please hold Monday, August 19, 2024, through Thursday August 22, 2024, as next year's Vacation Bible School!

~ David Larson-Martínez , Deacon

We hope you enjoy these photos from the week!



A NAME CHANGE FOR DEACON: DAVID LARSON-MARTÍNEZ

You may already have noticed that, but in case you have not, my name has changed! My full name is now David Larson-Martínez. In 2012, when coming out to my parents after accepting that I could be gay *and* Christian, my father disowned me. Since then, I have not wanted to carry his surname. In Spanish naming customs, people carry multiple last names which tell a person's familial history. The first last name is traditionally the male parent's, and the second last name is traditionally the female parent's. Never is there a hyphen; on and on they go spanning generations, back and forth in gender, attempting to prove a pedigree of sorts. This is why, for example, famous activist Dolores Huerta's full name is Dolores Clara Fernández Huerta and famous author Gabriel García's full name is Gabriel José de la Concordia García Márquez. Quite the mouthfuls, huh? I chose to drop all of my paternal last names. I also chose to only keep my first maternal last name (Martínez) honoring my mother: Margarita Martínez Flores. When I was disowned in 2012, a mentor and friend (Phyllis Larson Schroeder) supported me through my time in undergrad, heartbreak, discernment of call to ministry, and has continued to be a part of my life's story. Last year she asked me if I would preach her funeral sermon when the time comes, and I asked if I could carry her last name. We were both honored. In living into my identity as an immigrant in the U.S. as well as originally a Latin American, I chose to keep the accented Martínez but add a hyphen after Larson. Both my mother and Phyllis attended the Hennepin County court hearing wherein I petitioned to have my name legally changed and the judge ordered it so. I am now proudly David Larson-Martínez! !

UKRAINE: WAR AND RESISTANCE PHOTO EXHIBIT

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church is hosting the photojournalism exhibit "Ukraine: War and Resistance" until September 10. A panel will highlight the courageous work of award-winning photojournalists and discuss the current situation on September 3 at 11:15 a.m., following Sunday service.

The Russian invasion of Ukraine provoked immediate outrage around the world, and the brutality of the war has continued. More than a year later, a certain fatigue greets the ongoing struggle and requests for support, even as Ukrainians themselves are exhausted. It is critical that those interested in international peace and social justice sustain their resolve to oppose the invasion and restore peace.



Minnesota Fulbright sponsored the production of these photographs. Seven outstanding photojournalists who work with publications here and abroad contributed to this exhibit, all of them former Fulbright scholars who participated in international exchanges over the past decade representing either Ukraine or the United States. Several Ukrainians will be there to lead discussion and there will be luncheon platters from Kramarczuk's Eastern European Deli. A free-will offering and donations will go directly to Rebuild Ukraine, a non-profit that contributes directly to Ukrainian civilians and programs. To register or for more information contact Sally at sgk@umn.edu.

FINAL FAMILY FUN NIGHT OF THE SEASON

What a soaking joy to have our congregation families, our Trinity Apartment neighbors (kids and adults), and our unhoused neighbors all join in on a water balloon fight, hotdogs, and fun!



HAPPENING THIS WEEK

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6-NOLAN GUSDAL RETURNS FROM SABBATICAL

CHILDREN'S CHOIR AND GLORIA RINGERS REHEARSE SEPTEMBER 6

Children's Choir (5:45-6:45 p.m.) and Gloria Ringers (6:00-7:30 p.m.) will kick off starting Wednesday, September 6. Each of these ensembles performs in worship every 4-6 weeks. For more information on choral and instrumental ensemble and solo opportunities, talk to Cantor Phil Radtke. Choir meal will be provided from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. Supervised open gym will be available from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6-WEDNESDAY EVENING MEALS AND GYM TIME RETURN

The Children, Youth, and Family committee will offer a community meal in the Lunchroom from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. each Wednesday that choirs are in session. After the meal, there will be an open gym time with adult supervision until 8:00 p.m. We hope that parents/guardians will consider having their children participate in the youth choirs as well as consider joining the bell choir themselves. The weekly meal and open gym time invites relationships to develop among folks and has become a meaningful part of our life together. We invite you to join!

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7-PASTOR INGRID RETURNS FROM SABBATICAL

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9-BUILDING COMMUNITY THROUGH COMMUNION BREAD



Please join us at 10:00 a.m., September 9, for a communion bread baking demonstration and social hour. Whether you're a seasoned pro, a novice who wants to give it a try, or just curious about how it's done, we'd love to have you. Coffee, tea, and pastries

will be served. Stephanie Sulzbach will share her techniques for baking communion bread, and we invite others to offer tips and tricks as well. We'll have packets for those that want to give it a try to take home. Please sign up in the Community Room. All ages are welcome.

BUILDING PARTNER, METRO WORK CENTER, HAPPY HOUR

Please join Metro Work Center at Arbeiter Brewing on Monday, October 9 from 2:00-7:00 p.m. when \$0.50 of each beer will be donated to MWC! We will also have \$200 VISA gift card raffle prize and live music performed by John Kronstedt. Funds raised will support our goal of purchasing a van.



SAVE THE DATE

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 10:00 A.M. —CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Church Council has voted to call a congregational meeting for Sunday, September 10, at 10:00 a.m. in the sanctuary to vote on the recommendation from the Call Committee to call Deacon David to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament (pastor) at Holy Trinity. The meeting will start promptly at 10:00 a.m.; please join us in person if you can. You may also join the meeting and vote via [Zoom](#). Meeting ID: 826 7762 4355 Passcode: 695691

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10—MUSIC IN THE GARDEN

Join us for music and food in the garden at 12:00 p.m. (immediately following the 11:00 a.m. service). The Minnesota Swahili Christian Congregation Band (our building partner) will be providing the music. It promises to be fabulous. \$5 suggested donation for lunch; however, don't let the money keep you away from the fun. All are welcome!



MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11—ADULT CHOIR KICK OFF

Adult Choir will kick off starting Monday, September 11. For more information on choral and instrumental ensemble and solo opportunities, talk to Cantor Phil Radtke. Adult Choir meets Mondays from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. The Adult choir sings most weeks during the 11:00 a.m. worship.



FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15—DEADLINE TO REGISTER; EVOLVING FAITH CONFERENCE—OCTOBER 13-14

September 15 is the deadline to sign up for tickets to the Evolving Faith Conference. Sign up in the Community Room, we'll purchase tickets as a group. See the Seasonal Calendar for more information.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16—BRIGHT STARS OF BETHLEHEM 4TH ANNUAL GALA

You are invited to join others in the Twin Cities for the Bright Stars of Bethlehem 4th annual Gala! Enjoy the evening on Saturday, September 16, with new friends who strive to raise awareness and support for Dar al-Kalima University in Bethlehem, the first and only university of arts and culture in Palestine. All are welcome. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. A Palestinian speaker will report on his recent visit to the West Bank at 5:45 p.m., and appetizers and refreshments will be served prior to the 7:00 p.m. Bright Stars Gala. RSVP to Mary Engen at engenmary@yahoo.com by Monday, September 11.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23—SACRED SITES TOUR

Join us from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on a Sacred Sites Tour, part of the Healing Minnesota Stories initiative of the Minnesota Council of Churches. Tours are led by Rev. Jim Bear Jacobs (Mohican) and Kelly Sherman Conroy (Oglala Lakota). The tours offer an opportunity to learn about Minnesota history from a Native perspective through story-telling and experiencing the sites in silence / meditation / reflection. Please call, email office@htlcmpls.org or sign up in the Community Room. We will gather at Holy Trinity and drive together to the Church of St. Peter, where the tour begins at 10:00 a.m.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24—LAY COMMUNION VISITORS COFFEE

The mission of Holy Trinity's Lay Communion Visitation Program, sponsored by the Nurturing Committee, is to provide monthly communion visits to all of Holy Trinity's homebound persons. For these homebound persons, this provides regular person-to-person contact with Holy Trinity and an opportunity to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion on a monthly basis. For the visitors, it provides an opportunity to participate in an important face-to-face ministry of the congregation. In many cases, new and lasting relationships are forged between the person visited and the visitor. This program is a tremendous help to the pastors, who visit each homebound member several times per year. Current lay communion visitors and those interested in learning more about this important ministry are invited to be our guests for coffee between worship services at 10:00 a.m. Sign up in the Community Room by September 17.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5—MIGIZI GRAND OPENING

It's finally here! Save the date for MIGIZI's Grand Opening! We are so excited to gather with our community and celebrate the completion of our building. Come join MIGIZI for prayer, feast, performances, and more on Thursday, October 5 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm. Please note, reservations are required. Register and save your spot [here](#)

PS: The MIGIZI summer canoe trips were a great success. Consider donating to further help with this year's expenses and get a head start on next summer. Go to the "Donate" tab on the Holy Trinity website and designate your gift for "MIGIZI Summer Programs."

MIGIZI FLAME TO BE EXTINGUISSED

This is the day we have eagerly awaited! Mike Miller heard from Kelly Drummer that she agrees the flame should be returned and extinguished at MIGIZI's Grand Opening on October 5th!

It has been a longer journey than we could have anticipated when Pr Ingrid compassionately said yes to the request to keep the flame. I did a bit of rough calculation of our journey: well over 400 candles have burned in 12 homes for more than 40 months by the time the flame will be returned. The flame has been at the heart of our homes in these months. Many of us have retold the story to our friends and neighbors as they saw the candle burning in our homes. And many of us have centered the flame as part of our meals, prayers, devotions. It has been a unique time for accompanying our native friends, for deeper learning of Indian history, and for understanding the challenges for communities of color to rebuild. It is a story of new life arising out of death. We say his name, George Floyd.

I am grateful, as I know you all are, to have been part of this holy journey. And as at any journey's end, I am relieved that we have kept the flame alive so that it may now come full circle to the remarkable new MIGIZI community home - whew!

Thanks to each of you beloveds for saying yes to keeping the flame!

~ Lynda Nordholm

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS FOR SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2023

Preacher	Doug Mork
Presiding Minister	David Larson-Martínez
Crucifer	Wayne Vetter
Assisting Minister	Deb Anderson
Communion	Nicki Hines, Katy Benson, Pam Blomgren
Ushers	Chris Amundson, David Broberg, Jeff Olsen Biebighauser
Altar Guild	Doris Gbala
Coffee Servers	Roberta Shaw, Connie Adams
Counters	Annie Hines, Deb Helmelt
Closer	
Video Operator	Jeff Weiss

PARISH EVENTS SEPTEMBER 3-9, 2023

Sunday, September 3	10:00 AM 11:15 AM 2:00 PM	Worship Service of Holy Communion Adult Forum and Lunch Swahili Service
Tuesday, September 5	11:00 AM 2:00 PM	Worship Readings Discussion Knitting Group
Wednesday, September 6	5:00-6:00 PM 5:45-6:45 PM 6:00-8:00 PM 6:00 PM	Choir Family Meal Children's Choir Supervised Gym Time Gloria Ringers
Thursday, September 7	6:45 PM	Big Meeting Night
Saturday, September 9	10:00 AM	Communion Bread Baking and Social Hour

SEPTEMBER 3 IS THE FINAL SUNDAY OF SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

This is the last weekend for our summer worship schedule. Beginning September 10, we are back to two services at 8:45 and 11:00 a.m. with education for all ages at 10:00 a.m.

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](#).

