

## Research Participation Key Information

On a Threshold of Justice:

Stories of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church during the Uprising after George Floyd's Murder

### What you will be asked to do:

We ask participants to participate in a Story Sharing group with 4-6 other people. In the group, members will recall their experiences from the months after George Floyd's murder in the summer of 2020. The groups will meet five times in February and March 2024, and each session will be about 90 minutes long. Sessions will be audio recorded.

The time commitment is about 7-8 hours (five 90-minute sessions and the study will take place at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church (2730 E. 31<sup>st</sup> Street, Minneapolis, MN 55406). We will meet in the Mary Martha Room if in person; some groups may meet in a secure and private Zoom room.

### Participating in this study has risks:

- There is a risk that your privacy and confidentiality will be breached if what you share with the group is shared more widely by group members, or if we, the investigators, do not protect our project materials appropriately.
- You may experience emotional distress in recalling events from the summer of 2020.
- You may feel pressure to participate in the project from other community members.

### **Please read this form and ask any questions you may have before agreeing to be in the study.**

You are invited to participate in a research project about experiences of people at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, MN in the summer of 2020. At this time, Holy Trinity was a center for community resources in response to the uprising after George Floyd's murder. You may have been a leader or member at Holy Trinity, or you may have been a neighbor or volunteer. We are documenting the stories of people who participated in these efforts.

The title of this project is *On a Threshold of Justice: Stories of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church during the Uprising after George Floyd's Murder*. You were selected as a possible participant and are eligible to participate in the project because of your participation at Holy Trinity in 2020. You may have completed the *On a Threshold of Justice* workbook supplied by Holy Trinity in the first phase of this project (you need not have completed the workbook to participate in this phase of the project).

You must be at least eighteen years old to participate in this project. The following information is provided to help you make an informed decision whether you would like to participate or not.

Questions may be directed to Dr. Amy Levad (Professor of Theology, University of St. Thomas) at [amy.levad@stthomas.edu](mailto:amy.levad@stthomas.edu) or 651-938-5316.

## **What will you be asked to do?**

If you agree to participate in this study, we will ask you to do the following things:

- Participate in a Story Sharing group with 4-6 other people.
- Each group will meet five times during February and March 2024.
- Each session will be about 90 minutes long.
- In each session, you will be invited by a facilitator to respond to a prompt to recall your experiences in the summer of 2020 and tell your story to other group members. You will also have the opportunity to listen to other group members' stories.
- For one session, we will ask you to share a photograph that you took during the summer of 2020 that helps to capture your experiences.
- Story Sharing groups will meet in a private room at Holy Trinity or via Zoom.
- Sessions will be audio recorded. You will have the option to ask for the recorder to be paused during your story sharing.
- You will have the option to have the audio recording and transcript of your Story Sharing group, as well as the photograph you share, with the Holy Trinity historical archive.

## **What are the risks of being in the study?**

The study has risks:

- There is a risk that your expectations for privacy and confidentiality will be violated by participating in a Story Sharing group.
  - Even if we encourage participants not to do so, other group members may share what you say with people outside of the group. We ask all participants to maintain the confidentiality of the group; please do not share what you hear in the group outside of the group. Also, you may choose not to answer any questions or share any information that you would not want shared outside of the group. You may also leave the group at any time up through our last session.
  - If we are meeting via Zoom, group members may join the session in a setting where other people are present, even if we encourage them to join from a private location. If you are joining via Zoom, please ensure that you are in a private location without the presence of other people. If you are not joining from a private location, the facilitator may ask you to leave the Zoom session.
  - You have the option to have the records we collect of your story (audio recordings, transcripts, and/or photographs) shared with the Holy Trinity historical archive. These records will be managed according to the policies and practices of Holy Trinity. Anything shared in a recorded session will be beyond the control of the investigators once it is transmitted to the archive. You may skip questions or ask the recorder to be paused while sharing a story if you do not want to share with the archive.
  - It is possible that our records (both electronic and on paper) could be breached. To minimize this risk, all paper records from the project (for example, notes and consent forms) will be stored in a locked filing cabinet in Amy Levad's St. Thomas office. All digital records (for example, audio recordings and transcripts) will be saved to a secure location. When files are transmitted to the Holy Trinity archive, we will use a secure method.
- Another risk is that you may experience emotional distress in recalling events from the summer of 2020. To minimize this risk, we will use trauma-informed practices in our group facilitation.

There is also a member of the Holy Trinity staff available who is trained in counseling and pastoral care if you would like additional assistance. You may contact the Holy Trinity office at 612-729-8358 after our sessions for support.

- Finally, there is a risk of coercion or undue influence on your decisions to participate or withdraw from the project. You may be concerned that leaders or members of Holy Trinity or others will pressure you to participate or withdraw. To minimize this risk, we will not communicate about your participation with other people, including others at Holy Trinity. We will also meet in a private location or in a secure Zoom room. You may choose to withdraw from participation at any point up to the end of our last session. Your decisions to participate or withdraw will not affect your relationships with Holy Trinity Lutheran Church or the University of St. Thomas.

### **Here is more information about why we are doing this study:**

This project is being conducted by Amy Levad (Professor, Theology, University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, MN). She is assisted by her colleagues, Cara Anthony (Professor, Theology) and Laurel Potter (Assistant Professor, Theology), also at the University of St. Thomas. This project was reviewed for risks and approved by the Institutional Review Board at the University of St. Thomas.

The purpose of this project is to document the stories of people who participated in the efforts of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church during the 2020 uprising after George Floyd's murder. These stories will inform our scholarship about how churches and their surrounding communities respond to racial injustice and social unrest. We will draw upon your contributions to the Story Sharing group to inform our theological reflection on how participants in these efforts understood their actions personally, religiously, socially, morally, and politically.

The Story Sharing groups are the second part of a three-phase project that will expand upon this story collection and reflection. We will use the information we collect, along with what we learn in the other phases of the project, in a website documenting experiences at Holy Trinity in 2020 as well as in academic conferences, articles, and books.

There are no direct benefits to you for participating in this project.

### **While we can never guarantee complete [confidentiality in research](#), we believe your privacy and confidentiality are important. Here is how we will do our best to protect your personal information:**

Because of the nature of Story Sharing groups, we cannot guarantee your privacy and confidentiality. We ask all participants to maintain the confidentiality of the group; please do not share what you hear in the group outside of the group. Also, you may choose not to answer any questions or share any information that you would not want shared outside of the group. You may leave the group at any time up through our last session. We will meet in a private room at Holy Trinity or in a secure Zoom room. If we meet via Zoom, we ask all group members to join from a private location. If you are not joining from a private location, the facilitator may ask you to leave the session. We will not communicate with others about your participation in or withdrawal from a Story Sharing group.

You will have the option for us to share audio recordings and transcripts of your stories with Holy Trinity's historical archive, as well as any photographs you share with us. You will have the option to

have identifying information about you removed from your transcripts and photograph, but your voice may be identifiable in audio recordings. You will have the option to have the recorder paused during your story sharing in groups. Once these materials are transmitted to Holy Trinity's archive, they will be managed according to their policies and practices.

We will keep records of this study as confidential as possible. We save your information in the most secure online location available to us at the University. We cannot guarantee confidentiality because data security incidents and breaches may occur. If you choose to have your identity removed from project records about you, in any reports we publish, we will not include information that will make it easy to identify you.

The types of records we will create include:

- Consent forms: These forms will be stored in a locked filing cabinet in Amy Levad's University of St. Thomas office. They will be kept for a minimum of three years after the project, until approximately June 2027, when they will be destroyed. Only the investigators will have access to them.
- Audio recordings of Story Sharing group sessions: Recordings will be stored in a secure online location through the University of St. Thomas. We will keep audio recordings indefinitely. Because of the nature of audio recordings, these will not be deidentified.
- Transcripts of audio recordings: These will be stored in a secure online location through the University of St. Thomas. We will keep transcripts indefinitely, but they will be deidentified after three years, in approximately June 2027.
- Notes taken on paper and in computers: Paper notes will be stored in a locked filing cabinet in Amy Levad's University of St. Thomas office. Digital notes will be stored in a secure online location through the University of St. Thomas. We will keep all notes indefinitely, but they will be deidentified after three years, in approximately June 2027.
- Photographs submitted by group members (digital and on paper): Paper photographs will be stored in a locked filing cabinet in Amy Levad's University of St. Thomas office. Digital photographs will be stored in a secure online location through the University of St. Thomas. We will keep all photographs indefinitely, but they will be deidentified after three years, in approximately June 2027.
- A list of false names for participants who would like their identities obscured in project records: This list will be kept on paper in a separate locked filing cabinet in Amy Levad's University of St. Thomas office. It will be destroyed in approximately June 2027.

You may choose for us to remove identifying information from our notes and transcripts, as well as from photographs that you submit. Identifying information may include your name, your role at Holy Trinity, your image in a photograph, etc. If you choose for us to remove identifying information, we ask that you choose a false name for yourself that we will use to organize and store our records. Depending on your role at Holy Trinity, it may not be possible to remove your identity completely from project records.

Alternatively, you may choose for us to retain identifying information in our project records. Identifying information may include your name, your role at Holy Trinity, your image in a photograph, etc. We will retain identifying information in our notes and transcripts for three years, at which point we will remove it for indefinite storage. If you submit a photograph in which you can be identified, we will digitally alter it at that time so you are not identifiable.

Because of the nature of an audio recording, it is not possible to remove identifying information (e.g., the sound of your voice) from them. You may ask for the audio recorder to be paused while sharing with the group. You may also choose what information to share and what questions you will respond to.

If you submit a photograph that includes pictures of people other than yourself, we will immediately digitally alter it so that they are not identifiable.

Institutional Review Board officials at the University of St. Thomas have the right to inspect all research records for researcher compliance purposes.

**This study is voluntary and you have the right to withdraw from the research with no penalties of any kind.**

Your participation in this study is entirely voluntary. Your decision whether to participate will not affect your current or future relations with Holy Trinity Lutheran Church or the University of St. Thomas. There are no penalties or consequences if you choose not to participate. If you decide to participate, you are free to withdraw at any time up through the last session with your group without penalty. Should you decide to withdraw, data collected about you will be retained by researchers for use in the project. You can withdraw by telling the facilitator of your group that you no longer wish to participate. You are also free to skip any questions we may ask.

**Who you should contact if you have a question:**

The principal investigator is Amy Levad. You may ask her or your group facilitator any questions you have now and at any time during or after the research procedures. If you have questions before or after we meet, you may contact Dr. Levad at 651-962-5318 or amy.levad@stthomas.edu. Information about study participant rights is available online at <https://www.stthomas.edu/academics/research/institutional-review-board/study-participants/index.html>. You may also contact Sarah Muenster-Blakley with the University of St. Thomas Institutional Review Board at 651-962-6035 or muen0526@stthomas.edu with any questions or concerns (reference project number 2138012-1).

**STATEMENT OF CONSENT:**

I have had a conversation with the researcher about this study and have read the above information. My questions have been answered to my satisfaction and I consent to participate in the study. I am at least 18 years of age.

I agree to being audio recorded.  Yes  No

**You will be given a copy of this form to keep for your records.**

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**Signature of Study Participant**

**Date**

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**Print Name of Study Participant**

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Signature of Researcher

Date

## Maintaining Privacy and Confidentiality

The maintenance of privacy and confidentiality in this project depends, in part, on participants agreeing not to share what they hear in Story Sharing groups with people outside of the group.

**I affirm that I will keep what others share in my Story Sharing group confidential.**  Yes  No

## Identifying Information

You have the option for identifying information in our project records (e.g., notes, transcripts, photographs) to be removed by the investigators or for your identifying information to remain intact. Identifying information may include, for example, your name, your role at Holy Trinity, or your image in a photograph that you share with us. We are not able to remove identifying information from audio recordings. If you opt to have your identifying information removed, we will use a false name of your choice in anything we publish. We will also not use audio recording of your voice in our publications.

If you choose to keep your identifying information intact, we will retain such information in our project records for three years, at which point we will remove it for indefinite storage. If you submit a photograph in which you can be identified, we will digitally alter it at that time so you are not identifiable.

**Would you like your identifying information removed from our project records?**

Yes

No

## Submission to Holy Trinity's Historical Archive

We have the option to share our project records (e.g., transcripts, audio recordings, photographs) with Holy Trinity's historical archive.

If you choose for us to share records of your participation, they will be accessible to the public in accordance with Holy Trinity's policies and practices.

If you do not choose for us to share your records with Holy Trinity's historical archive, only the investigators will have access to it. We will edit out the stories you share in any audio recording of your group that we transmit to Holy Trinity.

**Would you like us to share records (e.g., transcripts, audio recordings, photographs) of your participation with Holy Trinity's historical archive?**

Yes

No

