



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, David Larson-Martínez, and Doug Mork, Pastors

JOIN US EVERY SUNDAY FOR WORSHIP SERVICE AT 10:00 A.M.

Interfaith Coalition on Immigration vigil—Pastor David's Remarks

Delivered on July 8, 2025 at the Fort Snelling Immigration Court's Bishop Henry Whipple Federal Building:



As an adolescent in Indiana, I spent my formative teenage years in a Christian tradition that is as American as apple pie. There, among the fields of corn and Hoosier drawl, my adult caregivers took me to a branch of evangelicalism born out of Revivalism in the late 1800s U.S.A.

A part of their beliefs includes a unique take on the theological concept of "Entire Sanctification" which (in Wesleyanism) is taught as a definite, second work of grace, in which original sin is cleansed, the heart is made perfect in love, and the believer is empowered to serve God. This branch of Christianity is known for its more rigorous emphasis on the possibility, necessity, and instantaneous nature of this Christian perfectionism than other branches of Methodism.

I quickly learned that I would never be able to experience it.

You see, by 2009 when I was a teenager, the national conversation surrounding immigration had made its way to sleepy towns and their churches in Indiana as well. I often heard from leaders of that Christian movement (as well as many of its lay people) that – in order to be an entirely sanctified Christian – one needed to follow the law. That is, U.S. law. This was especially brought up when the conversation turned to immigration. Illegal immigration was then (of course) part and parcel of unrepentant sinners.

In the Hebrew Scriptures we read in Exodus:

"The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, 'When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, she shall live.' But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live. So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, 'Why have you done this, and allowed the boys to live?' The midwives said to Pharaoh, 'Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them.' So God dealt well with the midwives; and the people multiplied and became very strong."

(Continued on next page)

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

READINGS

*Deuteronomy 30:9-14; Psalm 25:1-10;
Colossians 1:1-14; Luke 10:25-37*

MOMENTS OF LEARNING, JOY, GRATITUDE

If you have a moment you'd like to share, please send it to Kathy (kekwall@htlcmpls.org) and we will share them in the Community Church during the summer months.

The Vaillancourts just finished (July 2) 208 miles of walking the Camino Portugués. We learned a lot about ourselves, each other,



and spent almost 3 weeks walking the pilgrimage together. It is a blessing to have the time to share in this opportunity.

~Jenni LH Vaillancourt

"Possibilities for adventure, beauty, and goodness are all around you. And happiness is in your hands."

~Virginia Miller

~ 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 especially for **Sally Kohlstedt**, recovering from knee surgery; Tracey Baubie's mom, **ShaRon**; Jeff Olsen Biebighauser's mom **Jo**; **Rick Lathrop**; Breon Hutchins-Spratt's mom **Allison**; **Jenni Vaillancourt's stepdad**; **Mary Petersen**; Karen Batdorf's sister **Marie**; **Mike Kelly**; **Aric Sorenson** and **Ty Inglis**; Katie Murray's mom **Pat**; **Josie Tober**; the family of **Carol Kelly**, who died this past week and whose celebration of life service will be held July 19.

As an adult, I have found my way into the Lutheran tradition in which we teach the crazy, theological idea that we are both fully saints and fully sinners all at the same time. The acceptance of the messiness of life and the equal messiness of Christian living is a source of liberation for me. This is especially true when considering the topic of immigration in the U.S.

Illegal immigration has been forced upon millions by those in leadership who refuse to create pathways for those seeking a home here to follow. Some of you may know that just yesterday, thousands of Hondurans and Nicaraguans have had their Temporary Protected Status (TPS) revoked by the current administration. Many of these folks have had this status since 1999 and are now left in legal limbo. The legality and illegality of these laws is arbitrary.

I know that I am preaching to the choir here this morning. All of you are here because you believe in a humane immigration reform, and (before we get to that) you believe in humane treatment of our human siblings being held in this building and in the many facilities throughout these United States.

I am here this morning asking: What you are willing to do in order to be like our spiritual, Hebrew matriarchs Shiphrah and Puah?



When the leaders of this land show up to destroy our immigrant communities, what have you prepared to say, how will you act, and are you willing to grapple with what illegality and legality mean for us today?

I am asking this from a place of privilege, I know. I serve Holy Trinity Lutheran Church as an Associate Pastor. This congregation has accompanied me through the process of obtaining an H1B1 visa. This congregation of mine has put lots of time, lots of money, lots of resources into helping me navigate the labyrinth that is the U.S. immigration system. We have done it "the legal way" and have paid thousands upon thousands of dollars, spent hundreds and hundreds of minutes sitting in immigration offices instead of offering pastoral care, and have had to rely on our lay members to fill in for me when I needed to leave the country. All of this knowing that I cannot even begin to think about U.S. citizenship until ten to fifteen years from now.

Friends, there are many among us who are not so privileged. There are millions of undocumented immigrants in this country who are facing uncaring leaders. They have no pathway to follow that is "legal." And those pathways that were "legal" are quickly being destroyed. As a Christian leader among you I am saying that these millions of folks cannot simply "perfect" their nature – they are all messy humans just like you and me – and yet, in their messy humanness they are our siblings. They exist in this messy system that dehumanizes them. And God is asking us today: What you are willing to do in order to be like our spiritual, Hebrew matriarchs Shiphrah and Puah?

~Pastor David Larson-Martínez

THIS WEEK

WE NEED YOUR VOICE AS WE IMAGINE A NEW MODEL FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL AT HTLC!

Stop by the Community Room over the next few weeks to share your thoughts. What do you love about Sunday School? What would you change? Your responses will help us give thanks for the connections children are making today and dream together about the future of Sunday School. Interested in a one-on-one to share your ideas and experience? Reach out to Pastor Anna (anna.helgen@gmail.com) to schedule one.

SUNDAY-SATURDAY, JULY 13-19 – CONFIRMATION SUMMER TRIP

Confirmation students and adult chaperones will be traveling to Chicago! They will be partnering with various progressive, faith communities which address food insecurity and homelessness in the Chicago Loop area. This will be a trip with a mix of service, fellowship, and exploring that part of the world. We are grateful for the congregation's prayers, financial support, and encouragement of our youth.

WEDNESDAYS, BEGINNING JULY 16—CHRIST BE OUR LIGHT: CHANTING THE PSALMS IN HOPE

If your spirit has been longing for an opportunity to pray and sing for God's redeeming love to prevail, please consider joining us on Wednesday evenings 7:00-8:00 p.m. in the sanctuary to lean into the ancient practice of chanting the psalms.

Throughout the centuries, followers of Jesus' way have turned to the singing of psalms to pray, to praise, and to lament the pain and brokenness in our world. In doing so, we are united with the Church throughout time and space. And as in ages past, people of faith today may find comfort and strength in summoning these ancient texts to speak to us yet again. The act of raising our voices to God together in a gentler and more lyrical resistance at the end of the day seems like a beautiful way to counter the despair that confronts us.

Our time together will be simple. We'll take up a handful of psalms each time we meet, surround ourselves with candlelight, and set aside a moment or two of silence following each psalm for reflection. In the coming days and weeks, our intention will be to sing through all 150 Psalms in order, beginning to end. No commentary. No contextualizing. We'll let the Psalms speak what they will to our spirits.

Please sign up in the Community Room this coming Sunday, July 13 or email Ann Schrooten at annlarayne@gmail.com if you wish to attend.

THURSDAY, JULY 17—ENCORE! AT TURTLE BREAD

Encore! meets monthly on the third Thursday of the month at 8:00 a.m. at Turtle Bread (4205 E. 34th St.). There is no agenda. Breakfast goes simply get to know one another. No sign up necessary.

THURSDAYS, JULY 17, 24—LONGFELLOW SUMMER SING

This third annual Summer Sing will take place on Thursdays 6:00-7:30 p.m. in the evening and will provide a space for all singers to join together. We will sing sacred and secular pieces in varying styles by composers local and abroad that promote community and music making. This year's theme will surround finding and sharing radical joy. Questions and sign up can be directed to Phil Radtke (pradtke@htlcmpls.org).

SAVE THE DATE

FUNERAL HELP SATURDAY, JULY 19

As we prepare to celebrate the life of Carol Kelly on July 19, we are looking for volunteers to help bake bars/cookies and to help the day of the service. If you can help with baking, set up, serving, or clean up, please call the church office or sign up in the Community Room this Sunday.

POP UP BELL CHOIR SUNDAY, JULY 20

Have you been wanting to try ringing bells? Join us for this summer's pop-up bell choir! New ringers will ring alongside experienced ringers for a stress-free experience. We will rehearse at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 16, and ring in worship on Sunday, July 20. No bell experience is required, but a basic ability to read music will be helpful. RSVPs are appreciated; contact Logan Olson (lolson@htlcmpls.org).

SUNDAY, JULY 20—MUSIC IN THE GARDEN

Join us for music and wood-fired pizza in the garden at 11:00 a.m. (following the 10:00 a.m. service). The music for this Sunday will feature Julius Collins and Brian Ziemniak of [Dr. Mambo's Combo](#). Dr. Mambo's Combo has been performing weekly at Bunkers Music Bar and Grill since 1987. It promises to be fabulous. All are welcome! If you would like to volunteer, please sign up in the Community Room.

THURSDAY, JULY 24—SISTERS' CAMELOT GROCERY DISTRIBUTION

Sisters' Camelot is a collectively run nonprofit founded in 1997 that is focused on food justice, waste reduction, sustainable living, community building, and youth education. They share free organic groceries and free organic meals with the community. They deliver groceries at Holy Trinity on the fourth Thursday of each month at 2:30 p.m. Distribution takes place outside by our pizza oven.

SUMMER POP-UP CHOIR SUNDAY, JULY 27

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 the 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!

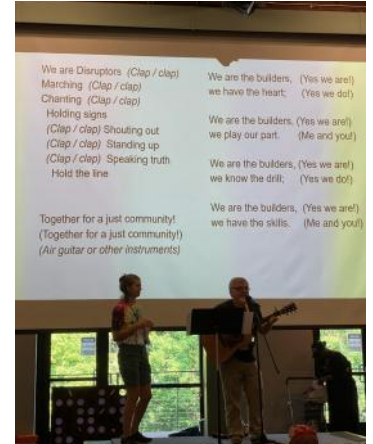
EXTRA NOTES

HYGIENE KITS FOR NEW HOMELESS SHELTER

The Valiance, a new homeless shelter from the Agate Housing Facility, is collecting hygiene kits for its residents. Holy Trinity has offered to donate 50 kits. We need your help. We need the following (travel size only): bar soap, shampoo and conditioner especially for textured and curly hair, toothpaste and toothbrushes, deodorant, razor and shaving cream, body wash, shower shoes, lotion, non-alcohol-based mouth wash, no-rinse body wash, no-rinse shampoo, washcloths, combs and brushes. There will be a box in the Community Room where you can put your donations. The donations are needed by August 1. Thank you!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2025 REFLECTION—ZOE MARTINEZ

Vacation bible school this summer was incredible. With over 100 campers, paid high school helpers, and many, many volunteers. It was an amazing experience. The theme, *Building a Beloved Community*, the week was filled with singing, learning, and so many creative activities. Each camper made their own stuffie from drawing it, painting it, and then stuffing and sewing it. They also made colorful t-shirts, and learning African drumming and dance. These are just a few of the experiences that week offered. Please take advantage of next summer's camp as a camper or a volunteer. Any questions, please ask me. I really enjoyed the week as a volunteer.



CREATION CARE ACTION OPPORTUNITY

Have you been thinking of making home energy improvements or asking your landlord to make them? Now's the time to get them done, since home energy tax credits will be gone in 2026. Adding insulation, air sealing, a heat pump or replacing your water heater are great ways to reduce CO2 while making your home more comfortable summer or winter 3 easy steps:

1. **Schedule a Home Energy Squad visit** (or look at the home energy fitness report from your recent Home Energy Squad visit to see the recommended actions <https://www.mncee.org/home-energy-squad>)
2. **Decide the actions you want to take and how to pay for them.** CEE Home Energy Advisors can help you walk through the incentives. Zero percent interest loans available from CEE (612-335-5858) (80% AMI) <https://www.mncee.org/how-get-started>. Use our handy reference guide to see the utility rebates and IRA tax credits that will apply
3. **Schedule the work to be done this summer or fall** with an insulation or HVAC contractor recommended by CEE. Then ask the contractor to turn in the paperwork to the IRS for the project they did and you will receive up to 2K back from your 2025 taxes owed.

Creation Care team volunteers will be available in the community Room at 11:00 a.m. every Sunday in July to answer your questions and to share our handy home energy project funding sheet. [Click here](#) for an electronic version.

Or you can also call or email Sean with your questions. Sean Gosiewski, 612 250-0389 seangosiewski@gmail.com.

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS FOR SUNDAY, JULY 13, 2025, 10:00 AM

Preacher	David Larson-Martínez (he/him)
Presiding Minister	Madeline Burbank (she/her)
Cantor	Cathy Alpizar (she/her)
Altar Guild	Mary Engen (she/her), Ginny Jordan (she/her)
Crucifer	
Assisting Minister	Tom Skold (he/him)
Communion	Pam Blomgren (she/her), Kathy Skold (she/her), Dennis O'Brein (he/him)
Ushers	Bob Peschiutta (he/him), Chuck Jordan (he/him) Chris Engen (he/him)
Coffee Servers	Kathy Hollander (she/her), Rod Johnson (he/him)
Counters	Deb Helmelt (she/her)
Closer	Bob Hulteen (he/him)
Video Operator	Bob Hulteen (he/him)

COTTAGE MEETINGS

We have a few spots left for July cottage meetings, be sure to sign up in the Community Room.

Please enjoy photos from the gathering hosted June 29, by Phil Radtke and James Nysse.



PARISH EVENTS JULY 13-19, 2025

Sunday, July 13	10:00 AM	Worship Service of Holy Communion
	12:00 PM	Swahili Service
Tuesday, July 15	11:00 AM	Worship Readings Discussion
	6:30 PM	Executive Committee
	7:00 PM	Church Council
Wednesday, July 16	6:00 PM	Pop-up Handbell Choir Rehearsal
	7:00-8:00 PM	Christ Be Our Light: Chanting the Psalms in Hope
Thursday, July 17	8:00 AM	Encore! at Turtle Bread
	6:00-7:30 PM	Longfellow Summer Sing
Saturday, July 19		Carol Kelly Funeral
	10:00 AM	Visitation
	11:00 AM	Service

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](#).

