



WE ACKNOWLEDGE THAT WE GATHER ON THE DAKOTA HOMELAND

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

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

What We Heard: Reflections from the Holy Trinity Storytelling Survey

This summer, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church was selected as one of just 50 organizations across the country to advance in the Lilly Endowment's new Storytelling Initiative. In June, we shared news of this opportunity—a planning grant to design a five-year storytelling project centered on our “ecosystem of belonging.” We framed the initiative as a chance to push back on the narrative that the church is dying or irrelevant, by lifting up the powerful, surprising, and deeply personal stories of our faith community.

To help shape the vision for this project, we asked for your insight through a short survey. Fifty-six people responded. You offered generous, thoughtful, and wise reflections—and we are listening.

The Power of Stories

Again and again, survey responses emphasized that what makes a story worth hearing is *authenticity*. We heard that people are hungry for stories that are “raw, open, and passionate,” “grounded and real,” and “not sugar-coated.” Respondents noted that the best stories often include an emotional hook, a moment of transformation, or a glimpse of divine presence in ordinary life. Many said that the most memorable stories were the ones that tapped into vulnerability—stories of doubt, courage, perseverance, or joy in the midst of hardship.

One person reflected, “A good story needs to be honest and share some ‘aha’ insight that is important to the teller and transferable to others.” Another wrote, “Stories that reflect doubt, uncertainty, liminality, human nature mixed with faith and belief in God.” Others simply said they are drawn to “stories that make me laugh and cry at the same time.”



(Continued on next page)

EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

READINGS

*Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14, 2:18-23; Psalm 49:1-12;
Colossians 3:1-11; Luke 12:13-21*

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.



This is what growth and confidence and friendship and a taste of independence looks like on some really remarkable young people. Grateful for the opportunity to accompany them, physically and emotionally and in many more ways. They're teaching me a lot in the process.

~ Katie Schroeder

~ 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 **Tina and Neela**; Tracey Baubie's mom **ShaRon**; Jeff Olsen Biebighauser's mom **Jo**; **Rick Lathrop**; Breon Hutchins-Spratt's mother **Allison**; **Jenni Vaillancourt's** stepdad; **Mary Petersen**; Karen Batdorf's sister **Marie**; **Mike Kelly**; Katie Murray's mom **Pat**; **Josie Tober**; the Chris Engen's sister **Paddy**, who is nearing the end of her life; Julie Cahoy's brother **Mike McDonald**, who entered hospice this week.

What We Want to Hear

When asked what types of stories you'd like to hear from Holy Trinity's community and partners, one clear theme emerged: *diverse personal journeys of faith and belonging*. Respondents shared a curiosity about how others came to Holy Trinity, how people from different cultural or faith backgrounds make sense of Christianity, and how faith sustains people during times of struggle. You expressed interest in hearing from elders, young people, clergy, and community partners alike.

One person wrote: "I want to hear stories from our elders—what their youth was like, middle age, and what aging is like for them." Another said: "We celebrate people of strong faith, but my personal experience is all about struggles and doubts. The most meaningful stories for me are about people persisting despite their uncertainties or weaknesses."

Others voiced interest in stories about grief, justice, migration, and the work of rebuilding. Someone asked: "How do we stay connected to a Christian church that in many ways is countercultural to the broader church in America?" Another reflected: "I'd like to hear how people's faith shapes their response to and engagement with the world around them."

What Sticks With Us

When we asked you to name a story of faith and life that stayed with you, your answers spanned decades, continents, and traditions. Some of you recalled moving sermons or faith stories shared at Holy Trinity—especially during Good Friday or Wednesday Lenten services. Others remembered stories of courageous people: Corrie Ten Boom, imprisoned for hiding Jews during World War II; Pastor Gilbert Tahilo, who survived torture in colonial Madagascar; or gay activists in Uganda resisting government persecution.

Many stories were local and deeply personal. A story about Holy Trinity serving as a medic station during the uprising. A conversation with a high school friend who believed in you. A story about overcoming self-doubt or finding your way back to God after a spiritual "breakup." One respondent recalled congregant's story about changing her water use habits after traveling abroad—and how they've showered differently ever since.

What made these stories memorable? Overwhelmingly, it was their *truth*. They reflected real people navigating real lives with faith, humility, and love.

What Makes Us Say "I Want to Hear That"

We asked: what makes you stop and say, "*I want to hear that story*"? Your answers included:

- "If it hints at a shared experience."
- "Redemptive living."
- "Personal experiences with the Holy Spirit."
- "Overcoming obstacles, a moment of realization, something beautiful in nature."

"A story that helps me see the divine in ordinary moments."

The throughline? You are moved by stories that help you *recognize yourself, feel something deeply, and see the sacred more clearly*.

What's Next: Dreaming Boldly

We also invited you to imagine bold storytelling experiences that could move hearts and spark change. Your responses were creative and wide-ranging. Ideas included:

- A digital library of bedtime stories told by Holy Trinity members
- A community Moth-style storytelling night with shared meals
- A cross-cultural music and arts concert featuring the Swahili choir, bell choirs, and the Tuesday band from Soup for You

Storytelling as spiritual practice: writing, collage, poetry, photography, and shared rituals

Several people emphasized that storytelling needs to cross platforms and generations to create a truly inclusive narrative. "The more face-to-face engagement, the better," one person wrote. "Even if it's online."



What We're Holding Close

We are deeply grateful for the honesty and vulnerability in your responses. One person reminded us: "Some people are great storytellers. Others not so much. The challenge is including people who don't feel their stories are important." Another reflected: "This is a huge and awesome undertaking. Good luck."

We hear both the excitement and the caution. We recognize that stories can heal, but they also require trust and care. We will work intentionally to ensure that *all* voices—especially those that are often overlooked—are welcomed and supported.

As we move toward submitting our full proposal for the Lilly Endowment Storytelling Initiative, your insights are guiding the way. Your stories are shaping the vision.

Thank you for helping us remember: storytelling is not just about telling something *new*—it's about helping one another *remember* what is most true. That God is still moving. That community is still possible. That love is still worth telling.

With gratitude,
Pastor Ingrid and Bob Hulteen

PARISH INFORMATION

THIS WEEK

TUESDAY, AUGUST 5—WORSHIP READINGS STUDY

Join Pastor David and congregants on Tuesdays at 11:00 a.m. in the youth library or on [Zoom](#) to study the assigned worship readings for the upcoming Sunday. Participants need not attend every session, and no prior bible experience is necessary (to join on [Zoom](#): Meeting ID: 872 7504 3389, Passcode: 336030).

TUESDAY, AUGUST 5—KNITTING GROUP

Knitters (and crocheters!) are invited to bring their knitting or crochet projects to Holy Trinity on the first Tuesday of each month at 1:30 p.m. All are welcome to join in for needlework and conversation. For more information, contact Liz Blood (liz.bill.blood@gmail.com).

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6—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, consider joining Ann Schrooten on Wednesday evenings to lean into the ancient practice of chanting the psalms. Ann says, "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 and reflection following each psalm. In the coming days and weeks, our intention will be to sing through all 150 Psalms in order, beginning to end."

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6—OUTDOOR YOGA WITH JAMES

Regardless of who you are, what you look like, or whom you love, James Orione believes that creating a space for everybody is very important. Society places many expectations and roles as to how, what, when, where, and why you are doing something instead of simply being. Through conscious movement connected to breath, you have an opportunity to learn how to be in this moment. Yoga is an opportunity to create, rediscover, and connect to the experience of being human and overcome the obstacles that stand in your path. Join us!

If you have your own mats, blocks, blankets, straps, or bolsters, please bring them. We have more than enough for those who need them. Classes are free and open to everyone—members and non-members. Invite a neighbor. This 90-minute class begins at 7:00 p.m.



COTTAGE MEETINGS

As July has come to a close, so have the 2025 Cottage meetings. (with the exception of one that is in the works of being rescheduled). We are grateful to all who hosted and all who participated. What a beautiful way to stay connected and build community in the summer months when we take a break from some of the church programming. Please enjoy a few photos from the Schroeder and Kleven gatherings.



SAVE THE DATE

SUNDAY, AUGUST 10—BIG MEETING AFTER WORSHIP

While it has been wonderful to have the ability to meet online for committee work, some committees have expressed a desire to meet in person on occasion. With our new worship schedule, we now have an opportunity to experiment with new offerings, including quarterly in-person gatherings. Each quarter, we will hold a Big Meeting after worship, starting at 11:30, with a simple lunch provided. Committees can decide whether to opt in based on their own needs and preferences. We look forward to the joy and connection of being together in person on Sunday, August 10, and Sunday, November 9, from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13—BIKE RIDE (RAIN DATE: FRIDAY, AUGUST 15)

All are invited to the August HT group bike ride! This ride will be an easy 15-mile roll through Hidden Falls and Crosby Farm Parks. The loop will begin at church at 5:30 p.m. and end with a stop for ice cream nearby! Sign up in the Community Room.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 14—EXODUS LENDING CELEBRATES TEN YEARS OF LENDING

Our community is the fabric of Exodus Lending, which is celebrating its 10th year of lending in 2025! The Exodus Lending story is a beautiful patchwork of relationships, values, and collective actions for the common good. It is a story of the fight together for economic justice in Minnesota. It's been a decade of stitching together a lending framework that models what we know our world could be. In these 10 years, Exodus Lending has saved 955 individuals \$2,818,651 in predatory lending fees and interest, and it is now offering small dollar loans to financially marginalized individuals! Please join Anna Brelje, Meghan Olsen Biebighauser, and Jeff Olsen Biebighauser on Thursday, August 14, for an anniversary celebration at 5:30 p.m. at Hook and Ladder in Longfellow. Sign-up in the Community Room and find full details at exoduslending.org.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 24—9TH ANNUAL INTERGENERATIONAL PICNIC AT WABUN PARK

As summer wanes, Holy Trinity families will gather for fun, food, and frolic at Wabun Picnic Area, 4655 46th Ave S, Minnehaha Fall Park. Plan to join us after worship (12:00-3:00 p.m.). Wabun Park features a covered gazebo, splash pad, and play ground. Sloppy joes, watermelon, and ice water provided; bring your own beverage and a dish to share. Sign up in the Community Room.

EXTRA NOTES

SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR LONGFELLOW STUDENTS

As school supplies go on sale, please think of Longfellow teen moms. Our goal is to fill 50 backpacks and donate them to the students at Longfellow High School. A good backpack is necessary since it also serves as a diaper bag. The filled backpacks can be dropped off at the church office or on Zoe Martinez's porch by Friday, August 29.

Each backpack should be filled with 3 spiral notebooks, 3 folders, pens, pencils, erasers, pencil sharpener, highlighters, markers, colored pencils, scissors, hair ties, comb and hairbrush, hand sanitizer, lip balm, wipes, and a water bottle. For more information, contact Zoe Martinez.

YEHIEL CURRY ELECTED PRESIDING BISHOP OF THE ELCA

PHOENIX — The Rev. Yehiel Curry was elected July 30 to serve a six-year term as presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). The election took place during the 2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly being held July 28-Aug. 2 at the Phoenix (Ariz.) Convention Center.

Curry was elected on the fifth ballot. There were 799 votes cast, with 400 votes needed for an election. Curry received 562 votes, and the Rev. Kevin Strickland, bishop of the ELCA Southeastern Synod, received 237 votes. Curry is the first Black presiding bishop of the ELCA.

Speaking to the assembly after his election, Curry reflected on his membership at Shekinah Chapel in Riverdale, Ill., where he eventually became a lay mission developer while he participated in the Theological Education for Emerging Ministries program, which prepares individuals for ordained ministry in the ELCA, with a focus on emerging ministry contexts like ethnic-specific, multicultural, rural, and inner-city settings. He spoke to the assembly about his initial hesitation in accepting that first ministry role.

"Perhaps I'm out there in one of you," Curry said. "I never saw myself as good enough, so for two years, I said no. I finally said yes. When I said yes, your support, this church's support, of that ministry meant everything. So if you want to know what your benevolence dollars look like, it looks like me, and I want to say thank you. Thank you for your investment."

Curry has served as bishop of the ELCA Metropolitan Chicago Synod since 2019. He previously served as mission developer (2009-2012) and pastor (2012-2019) of Shekinah.

He received a Bachelor of Arts from Lewis University in Romeoville, Ill., in 1995 and a Master of Divinity from the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago (LSTC) in 2013. LSTC is one of seven ELCA seminaries.

The churchwide assembly, the chief legislative authority of the ELCA, is meeting under the theme "For the Life of the World." The assembly will participate in plenary discussions to make decisions about the work of this church. They will also spend time in worship and engage in various ways of theological reflection.



Downtown Longfellow

Parking Survey

Longfellow Rising invites you to share feedback about your parking experience in Downtown Longfellow centered around Lake St. and Minnehaha Ave.

Your response to this short survey will help us advocate with the City to improve the parking situation and give you a better experience when you visit the area.



Or go to: <https://forms.gle/kawYnj8QHk1gbjdVA>

LONGFELLOW
RISING

SOUTH MINNEAPOLIS MEALS ON WHEELS—JOIN THE BOARD

South Minneapolis Meals on Wheels is looking for new members for their Board of Directors beginning in January of 2026. Holy Trinity is a member church within the organization and provides volunteers for meal delivery and some financial support. You do not need to have delivered meals to consider this opportunity. This year Holy Trinity has 2 people on the SMMOW Board - Mary Engen and Julie Cahoy. Please talk to either of us if you are interested. We also welcome people to help on one of our committees - Finance, Marketing/Fundraising, Board Development, and Operations Council.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9—BOOK LOVERS BALL

Please join us Thursday, October 9, for the 2025 Book Lovers Ball, Milkweed Editions' signature fundraising gala. Join guest speaker [Robin Wall Kimmerer](#) and 300 fellow book lovers at Nicollet Island Pavilion in Minneapolis to celebrate and raise funds for transformative literature. Tickets will sell quickly—to secure yours, [reserve them today!](#)

Robin Wall Kimmerer is the author of *The Serviceberry: Abundance and Receptivity in the Natural World*. Many of you participated in reading and discussing the book with Pastor Ingrid earlier this summer.



WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS FOR SUNDAY, AUGUST 3, 2025, 10:00 AM

Preacher	Ingrid Rasmussen (she/her)
Presiding Minister	David Larson-Martínez (he/him)
Cantor	Lydia Belusa-Niesen (she/her)
Altar Guild	Ginny Jordan (she/her), Mary Engen (she/her)
Crucifer	
Assisting Minister	Carol Masters (she/her)
Communion	Dennis O'Brien (he/him), Lori Lathrop (she/her)
Ushers	Kathy Hollander (she/her), Rod Johnson (he/him)
Coffee Servers	Kris Christians (she/her)
Counters	
Closer	Bob Hulteen (he/him)
Video Operator	Bob Hulteen (he/him)



WELCOME NEW EVENING CUSTODIAN

We are pleased to welcome Edgar Alvarez to the staff as evening custodian. Edgar was born in the metropolitan area of Guatemala City and currently resides in Minneapolis with his family. With over two decades of experience in nonprofit organizations and more than eight years coordinating community development programs, Edgar has built a career rooted in service, advocacy, and empowerment. He is known for his ability to synthesize practical and theoretical knowledge as a popular community educator in his work that has focused on issues of transitional justice for wartime violence and access to housing, land, and water. As a professional historian, he is currently pursuing a master's degree in territorial and urban development. Outside of his professional life, he enjoys the natural beauty of Minneapolis' rivers and lakes, spending time with friends and family, listening to music, engaging in outdoor sports, and reading—especially about the people's history of the Americas. He is excited to join the team at Holy Trinity and contribute to the community and missions to build a more just world.

PARISH EVENTS AUGUST 2-9, 2025

Sunday, August 3	10:00 AM 12:00 PM	Worship Service of Holy Communion Swahili Service
Tuesday, August 5	11:00 AM 1:30 PM	Worship Readings Discussion Knitting Group
Wednesday, August 6	7:00 PM 7:00 PM	Christ Be Our Light: Chanting the Psalms in Hope Yoga with James
Thursday, August 7	6:45 PM	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](#).

