



THE COMMUNITY CHURCH

On 28th Avenue between Lake and 31st Streets Minneapolis, MN 55406 • 612-729-8358 • office@htlcmpls.org • www.htlcmpls.org
WORSHIP SERVICES: 8:45 and 11:00 am • CHURCH SCHOOL: 9:45 am • Jay Carlson, Pastor

RECLAIMING “EVANGELISM”

Despite Christ’s Great Commission to “go and make disciples of all nations,” evangelism is a task I have most often avoided. I usually associate evangelism with an effort to convert nonbelievers to Christianity, and that makes me uncomfortable. Too often the desire to bring about conversions grows out of a belief that nonbelievers need to be “saved” from eternal damnation by adopting the Christian faith. To the extent that evangelism is about “saving souls,” I want nothing to do with it. I approach matters of faith and belief with humility, unwilling to assert the superiority of my own religious beliefs over those of others. The most I am willing to say is that it is the Christian story that has claimed me and helps me to make meaning of my own life. I recognize that other stories have claimed other people in a similar way, and I want to respect that.

Theologian Bryan Stone has written that evangelism is a “pacifist” activity. The Christian faith is not something to be *imposed* upon another person but must rather be *offered*. After all, effective evangelism is not ultimately *our* doing but is the work of the Holy Spirit. As Martin Luther writes in his Small Catechism, “I believe that by my own understanding or strength I cannot believe in Jesus Christ my Lord or come to him, but instead the Holy Spirit has called me through the gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, made me holy and kept me in true faith.” When it comes to evangelism, no amount of studying, strategizing, planning, or calculating will bear fruit if the Holy Spirit is not present. As Stone writes, we can trust that the “Spirit goes before us so that we need not be anxious, manipulative, or controlling in our evangelism.”

Stone says that the “most evangelistic thing the church can do today is to be the church.” To be the church means to gather to hear the gospel proclaimed—to hear the good news that we cannot and need not secure our own salvation, but that we are saved by grace through faith. Having heard this good news, we are liberated from self-centeredness and opened to respond to the needs of our neighbor. When the church is *really* being the church, those who hear the proclamation of the gospel respond in loving service of the neighbor.

An evangelizing church is at its best when it is doing what the church *should* be doing in the first place: *hearing the gospel and responding to this good news in service of our neighbor*. To do evangelism is to embody the gospel in a public way, to live in the world as people who have heard the good news and have been freed to address our neighbors’ deepest needs.

A church that strives to really be the church—that strives to respond to our neighbors’ needs in selfless love—would be perceived by others as something worth exploring. Such a church would be *relevant* because it would identify and confront the actual needs of people who are suffering. The church would provide a real sense of *identity* and *purpose* in a world of meaninglessness and self-interest. It would be *radically counter-cultural* and in this way would provide an *alternative way of being*. Such a church, I argue, has intrinsic evangelistic appeal. Simply to be the church, then, is to engage in the ministry of evangelism.

—Javen Swanson, Intern Pastor

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

As we are invited today to consider what it means to be managers (rather than owners) of all that we have, it is crucial to recall that we are bought with a price. Apart from the generosity of God we have nothing--we are nothing. By God’s gracious favor we have everything we need.



LESSONS
Amos 8: 4-7
Psalm 113
I Timothy 2:1-7
Luke 16:1-13

SUNDAY ADULT FORUM 9:55 am – In the library

September 19 “The liturgical practice at Holy Trinity”
Led by Holy Trinity staff

Julie Lindorff and other Holy Trinity staff will lead a conversation about the various liturgies that are used regularly in Sunday worship at Holy Trinity.

September 26 “Traditional Worship”
Led by Pastor Jay Carlson

Holy Trinity identifies itself as a congregation with “Traditional Worship – Contemporary Message – A Call to Social Justice”. Pastor Jay will reflect on what the term, “Traditional Worship,” means when used to describe the congregation.

ADULT FORUM TRANSCRIPT AVAILABLE

Ruth Halvorson’s presentation at the Adult Forum on August 29, (“A Journey of Grief, Gratitude and Grace,”) is available in hard copy at the church office or on the Holy Trinity web site at www.htlcmpls.org/halvorson. Two documents that she mentioned--“A Service of Blessing for one Dying” and an “Anatomy Bequest” form--are also available at the church office but not on the web.

ADVENT PLANNING WORKSHOP – Sunday, Sept 19, 12:15 pm

Bring your appetites (lunch will be served) and your curiosity about Advent to the *Get Creative with the Advent Plan* Workshop in the Mini-Gym. Welcome to a great opportunity to have a say in how we celebrate, decorate, recreate the Advent Season (November 28-Dec 23) at Holy Trinity. Hear the Advent texts during lunch. Brainstorm about images, practices, hymns, textures and colors. No participant too young or too old. Everyone has a story. Sign up in the Community Room. Those who wear blue get dessert.

OPPORTUNITY SALE – NOTE TIME CHANGE

The Opportunity Sale will be held on Sat. Oct. 2 from 9 am- 1 pm. Volunteers are needed to help move goods into the gym beginning Sunday, Sept. 26. Also, volunteers are needed to help the day of the sale. Please sign up in the Community Room.

PARISH INFORMATION

PROGRESSIVE DINNER

Share a MN Meal with other Holy Trinity members. The 2010 Progressive Dinner is on the calendar Saturday, September 25. Now we just need you to host a course or bring your favorite dish made from local ingredients. Call the church office if you would like to host a course. There is also a sign-up sheet in the Community Room. This is always a great event; make it greater by joining us!

MARCUS BORG STUDY: EMBRACING AN ADULT FAITH

Intern Pastor Javen Swanson will be facilitating a 6-week study group based on the work of Marcus Borg in preparation for his visit in Nov. We will meet in the library on Wed. evenings, Sep. 29-Nov. 3, 6-7:30 p.m. Each session will feature a brief video clip featuring Marcus Borg's theological reflections and a short reading from a variety of Dr. Borg's books. A registration fee of \$5 will cover the cost of materials and refreshments. Please register by contacting the church office.

NEW MEMBER CLASSES

New member orientation classes are being planned for next month. If you are interested in learning more about Holy Trinity and becoming a member, please attend a session either on Sunday, October 3 at 10:00 am in Pastor Carlson's office OR on Tuesday, October 5 at 7:00 pm in the library. Call or e-mail the office if you have any questions.

LABYRINTH TAPING AND PAINTING

Now that it is cooler, we can proceed with our plans to paint the labyrinth with the participation of Holy Trinity members. Sept 28 - Oct 7 from 6:30-8:30 pm. We will be working on tables on the stage in the regular gym. This will make it possible for most anyone to be able to participate. Please sign up in the Community Room for the dates that you will be available to work. For more information contact the church office.

I SUPPORT LOVE: SPEAKING FROM FAITH ABOUT MARRIAGE EQUALITY

What resources are available in our religious traditions to help us get off the defensive and speak in support of same-gender marriage equality from the perspective of faith? OutFront Minnesota and several area clergy will be hosting a workshop on speaking from faith in support of marriage equality. The workshop will be held on September 21, 6-8 pm, at the First Unitarian Society of Minneapolis (900 Mount Curve Ave).

CONGREGATIONAL READING PROJECT

At age 46, Sara Miles, raised an atheist, walked into an Episcopal church and for the first time received communion and found herself transformed. She realized that her mission in life was to feed the hungry. Sara started a food pantry in her parish, and within a year, hundreds of San Francisco's hungry were offered free food every Friday. Miles' book, *Take This Bread*, is the story of her journey from skeptical secularist to devout Christian. It is our next congregational reading book and is available for purchase in the Community Room for ten dollars.

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PARISH EVENTS September 19 - September 25, 2010		
Sunday	8:45, 11 am	Worship Service of Holy Communion
	9:30 am	Confirmation Orientation
	9:45 am	Sunday School
	9:55 am	Adult Forum
	12:15 pm	Advent Planning meeting
	2:00 pm	Swahili service
Monday	7:00 pm	Church council meeting
Wednesday	10:00 am	Lectionary Text Study
	6:00 pm	Children's Choir
	6:45 pm	Cantate!
	7:30 pm	Adult Choir
Thursday	10:00 am	Senior Yoga
Saturday	10-12 pm	Paper Shredding in Parking Lot
		Progressive Dinner

SPECIAL GIFTS in memory of *David Lindell* by John and Carol Kelly, and Jack and Donna Tretheway, and in memory of *Paul Woytasek* by John and Carol Kelly
 RAIN GARDEN in memory of *David Lindell* by Chris and Mary Engen and Stan and Bonnie King

WORLD HUNGER by Jerry Olson

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS SEPTEMBER 19, 2010			
	8:45 AM		11:00 AM
	Javen Swanson	Preacher	Javen Swanson
	Jay Carlson	Celebrant	Jay Carlson
	Ian Doss-Smith	Crucifer	David Krig
	Danya/Anton Werth	Acolytes	Anna/Sam Kleven
	Liz Rudrud	Liturgist	Karen Batdorf
	Brian Lenz	Communion	Alan Libra, Kirk Jensen
	Bob Peschiutta, Doug Stolba, Paul Krumrei	Ushers	Lynda/Dennis Nordholm, Ron Peterson, George Madich
	Mary Young, Shelley Grimes	Altar Guild	Nan Madich, Pat Lundquist
	Kerry Bosu	Nursery	Kris/Paul Christians, Kerry Bosu
	Sally and David Kohlstedt	Coffee Servers	Troy/Judy Davison
	Joyce Peterson, Dennis Nordholm	Counters	Gary Johnson, Ray Sanders
		Closer	John Kelly

Financial Report	September 12	Year to Date
Budget Requirements	11,076.92	409,846.15
Budget Receipts	10,511.45	393,198.83
World Hunger	20.00	3,206.02
Disaster Relief	--	6,894.70
Capital Improvements	--	40.00
Rain Garden (current year)	160.00	29,275.37
<i>total donations to Rain Garden</i>		<i>38,820.46</i>
African Pastor's endowment	--	760.00
Youth Opportunity Fund	--	952.00

THEOLOGY ON TAP

Theology on Tap is beginning to meet again. The next event will be on Sunday September 19, 6pm at Tracy's (2207 E Franklin Ave). Please join us for drinks and conversation.

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