



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 and Ingrid Rasmussen, Pastors

## BE PERFECT

*Excerpt from Sermon on Matthew 5:38-48*

This passage describes a nonviolent way of bringing about positive change into the world. Jesus calls his followers to refrain from participating in a cycle of violence, the kind of cycle that Gandhi referred to by saying, “an eye for an eye makes the whole world blind.” Much more than merely submitting to oppression, this passage also calls for responding with actions rooted in love for self, neighbor, and enemy. And it concludes by saying, “be perfect as your heavenly father is perfect.” What a command!

Where does the strength for this come from? Loving one’s neighbor without any retaliation, even on a small scale, is incredibly difficult. Taking an insult without throwing one back, not trying to repay hurt with an equal amount of hurt...this just isn’t the usual way of doing things. Loving one’s enemies seems impossible.

Part of the reason for that is that our identity, the way we understand ourselves, is so often formed in relation to other people. What others do and say is usually of profound importance to us. According to mimetic theory, which is rooted in the work of anthropologist Rene Girard, we human beings tend to mimic the hostility against us. We often become “mimetic doubles” mirroring violence and hostility. Even the church is often defined by what it is against. How many denominations and church movements have been formed out of fights, organizing themselves against someone else’s way of worshipping or reading the Bible. Studies have shown that the perception of Christians among nonreligious people today is that we are merely against certain things. So-called progressive Christianity are not exempt from this. Can we define ourselves without saying merely what we are not—not Evangelical, not exclusive or closed-minded like other churches? Can we identify ourselves by what we are for more than what we are against?

Perhaps part of being perfect in the kingdom of God is understanding that our identity does not depend on others—either in agreeing with or being against them. We certainly can be wholly who we are without having to find a scapegoat in someone else. As a matter of fact, that Greek word in this passage translated as “perfect” doesn’t mean without any error. It means complete, having reached an end, or even mature. I like to think of it as “be whole” because what I’ve come to hear in this passage is not so much a command to be ethically perfect but an invitation to be whole. The Gospel reminds us that our identity is to be found in being a child of God, complete just as we are without the need to compare ourselves to others or to put others down. And there’s real power in that identity. There’s power in knowing who we are and the kind of love that we stand for. It’s the kind of power that can lead one to claim a place at a lunch counter or at front of the bus. It’s the kind of power that can lead a group of women in Liberia to peacefully change a nation. It’s the kind of power, for instance, that can lead an athlete from Missouri to be honest about his sexual orientation, despite criticism and concerns about his future career. It’s the kind of power that can lead a church in Kiev to tirelessly care for injured neighbors, both demonstrators and soldiers. My point is that we can see this power at work in our world. It’s not just a pie in the sky fantasy. It’s at work in individuals and communities who are clear about who they are.

You too are invited to be perfect, complete, mature, whole, just like the one who created you. Other distractions will come into your life that might deter you from your identity as a child of God, one who is both loved and loving, but we can return to this invitation again and again. We have to. And it’s through hearing the Gospel of Christ who with grace is at work in us far more than we can comprehend that these words become an invitation and gift rather than a burden: “be perfect.” Don’t look to anyone else to define you. You are complete.

— Jay Carlson, Pastor

## TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD

*Today’s festival is a bridge between the Advent-Christmas-Epiphany cycle that comes to a close today and the Lent-Easter cycle that begins in several days. On the mount of transfiguration Jesus is revealed as God’s beloved Son, echoing the words at his baptism. This vision of glory sustains us as Jesus faces his impending death in Jerusalem.*



### LESSONS

Exodus 24: 12-18  
Psalm 2  
2 Peter 1:16-21  
Matthew 17:1-9

### SUNDAY ADULT FORUM

10:00 am — In the library

### MARCH 2

#### NEW MEMBER WELCOME

Rick Liedholm, Mary Lindell,  
and Paul Rasmussen

Please join us as we welcome fourteen new members into this community of faith. Current members Rick Liedholm, Mary Lindell, and Paul Rasmussen will give short presentations about their experience of life at Holy Trinity. New members will have the opportunity to introduce themselves. And treats will be served. Come and celebrate the Holy Spirit’s work in this community!

### MARCH 9 THEOLOGICAL REFLECTIONS ON 2013 FILMS: WHAT DO WE CLING TO WHEN ALL IS LOST?

Doug Wallace

Films: *12 Years a Slave*, *Captain Phillips*, *All is Lost*, *Gravity*.

Four ships. Four stories of being cast adrift. All struggling to find their way in hostile environments. Could it be that these four dramas are meant to be metaphors about passages in our own pilgrimages? Challenging us to reflect deeply on what we could discover in our own journeys? Is it possible that these are a retelling of the ancient hero’s voyage into the dangerous shadows and demons that threaten to tear our conscious life apart?

### WRITERS’ CIRCLE

All are welcome to join the Holy Trinity Writers’ Circle. On the 2nd Tuesday of every month a small group of writers meet to give one another support in their craft. Join them at their next meeting, March 11th, from 6:30-8:00 p.m. in the Mary and Martha Room.

### CONCERNING PEOPLE

No church members are hospitalized this week

# PARISH INFORMATION

## LENTEN SOUP SUPPER AND WORSHIP SERVICE

Wednesdays during Lent there will be a soup supper at 5:30 p.m. followed by evening prayer service at 7:00 p.m. Lenten services start on March 5, Ash Wednesday. We need volunteers to make soup, set up, and clean up. Sign up in the Community Room.

## DAY ON THE HILL

JRLC's Day on the Hill will be on March 13 from 8:30 - 4:00. We gather at the Rivercentre in St Paul to hear a keynote address and get briefed on the issues, then you'll be bused to the Capitol to meet with your legislators. Payday Lending will be one of the primary issues of the day and it would be great to have lots of Holy Trinity members present! If you'd like to carpool, the van will leave HT at 8am and return after the last legislator meeting at 4:00. Sign up in the Community Room and contact Meghan Olsen Biebighauser with any questions.

## MINNEAPOLIS PARKING RESTRICTIONS

The City of Minneapolis has instituted Winter Parking Restrictions, which means that folks cannot park on the even side of residential streets (non-Snow Emergency routes) until further notice.

## STORYTELLING EVENT: WOMEN RELIGIOUS

For National Catholic Sisters Week, a national initiative supported by the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation to raise awareness of the contributions of women religious, The O'Shaughnessy at St. Catherine University will feature a Moth Radio Hour under the theme "SisterStories: How Did I Know". Hosted by Soledad O'Brien, four women religious will tell their stories around the theme. Saturday, March 8, 2-3:30. The event is free and open to the public, but tickets are required. You can call The O'Shaughnessy box office at 651-690-6700. Contact Nicki Hines at 612-276-9981 with questions.

## WILD GOOSE FESTIVAL INVITATION

"What the Wild Goose community believes is best discovered through shared experience. There is no litmus test beyond an open heart. There is no creed required beyond a willingness to meet respectfully across lines of difference, to share wisdom and listen to each other's stories, and become more than the sum of our parts." The Wild Goose Festival is in Hot Springs, NC, from June 26-29, 2014. Learn more about the festival on their website, wildgoosefestival.org, then come to an informational meeting during the soup supper on March 5 in the Community Room. We may send a caravan of Holy Trinity members to North Carolina.

## PEACE WITH JUSTICE FILM SERIES

*Do The Math*, a documentary with Bill McKibben, who was recently featured on Bill Moyers' PBS show. The 44-minute film about climate change will be shown in the church library on Thursday, February 27, at 7 p.m. and on Sunday, March 2, at 12:30 p.m. No charge - freewill offering for refreshments. Come and discuss with us!

## PARISH EVENTS March 2-8, 2014

<b>Sunday</b>	8:45, 11 am	Worship Services with Holy Communion
	9:30 am	Confirmation, 9:45 am Sunday School
	10:00 am	Adult Forum
	12:30 pm	Peace with Justice Film, <i>Do the Math</i>
	12:30 pm	HTTC Rehearsal, <i>Our Town</i>
<b>Monday</b>	2:00 pm	Swahili Service
	10:00 am	Yoga for Seniors
	11 - 2:30 pm	AARP Tax Aide
<b>Tuesday</b>	6:30 pm	Youth Committee
	7:00 pm	Peace w/ Justice Committee
	11 - 2:30 pm	AARP Tax Aide
	3:30 - 5:30 pm	Open Gym
<b>Wednesday</b>	6:30 pm	HTTC Rehearsal, <i>Our Town</i>
	10:00 am	Lectionary Text Study
	5:30 pm	Lenten Soup Supper
	6:30 pm	Youth Choir warm up
	6:15 pm	Wild Goose Information Meeting
<b>Friday</b>	7:00 pm	Ash Wednesday Service
	7:45 pm	Adult Choir
<b>Saturday</b>	10:00 am	Yoga for Seniors
	10:00 am	HTTC Rehearsal, <i>Our Town</i>

**Boiler Fund** by Roberta Shaw, Bernice Allain, Dick Wilson

## WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS March 2, 2013

8:45 AM		11:00 AM
Ingrid Rasmussen	<b>Preacher</b>	Ingrid Rasmussen
Jay Carlson	<b>Presiding Minister</b>	Jay Carlson
Meagan McLaughlin	<b>Crucifer</b>	David Krig
Soren Kung	<b>Acolytes</b>	Marianna Hefte, Emily Davison
Rick Liedholm	<b>Assisting Minister</b>	Susan Wootten
Jeff Weiss, Bruce Martens	<b>Communion</b>	Anna Brelje, Linda McMahon
Nancy Madich, Ann Neuendorf	<b>Altar Guild</b>	Betty/Dick Pittelkow
Bob Peschiutta, Sally/David Kohlstedt	<b>Ushers</b>	Lee Kampinen, Alan Libra, Riley Conway, George Madich
	<b>Nursery</b>	Pat Libra
Joel/Nancy Wiberg Donna/Elsie Heyer	<b>Coffee Servers</b>	Mark/Barb Holm
Ron/Margaret Peterson	<b>Counters</b>	Scott Cole, Deb Helmel
	<b>Closer</b>	Vicki Mann

Financial Report	February 23	Year to Date
Budget Requirements	13,591.35	108,730.77
Budget Receipts	15,031.13	110,361.87
World Hunger	-	242.00
Boiler Donations	107.00	15,072.50
African Pastors Endowment	-	615.00

Office phone: 612-729-8358  
Jay Carlson and Ingrid Rasmussen, Pastors

U.S. Postage Paid  
Periodical

THE COMMUNITY CHURCH USPS 777-060  
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Community Church, c/o Holy Trinity  
2730 E. 31 St. Mpls., MN. 55406. Published weekly by Holy Trinity Lutheran Church.  
612-729-8358. Periodicals postage paid at St. Paul, Minnesota. Pastors Jay Carlson,  
Ingrid Rasmussen