



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

GOD'S "YES"

— a sermon excerpt

As honest readers, we need to remember that fifty generations ago, give or take, women had little control over their own lives. If we consider the woman's powerlessness in her situation, then, Jesus' tone changes. Rather than hearing Jesus pronounce an indictment, we hear Jesus simply uncovering and naming the sobering realities of the Samaritan woman's life. She has had five husbands; and, now, most likely for the sake of survival, she is forced to live outside of social and religious boundaries with someone who is not her husband. Jesus neither speaks words of condemnation nor does he offer easy answers. He simply chooses to validate her words and her experience, saying, "What you have said is quite true."

This reading is supported by the fact that Jesus never asks the Samaritan woman to leave her living situation, and the woman never repents for her actions. Instead, the text reminds us that it is because Jesus told the woman everything that she had ever done, that she came to believe. In the male-centric world of the first century, it may have been just as appropriate for the Fourth Evangelist to say that Jesus told the woman everything that had ever happened to her, over which she had little or no control.

Contrary to what we may have been taught, therefore, the power of this story need not reside in Jesus' abrupt disclosure of the woman's sin and her penitential belief. Instead, if we assume that the woman lived under the cover of social and religious silence, then it is Jesus' gracious act of uncovering and naming her reality that brings about her first moment of clarity and belief. It is Jesus' recognition of the Samaritan woman's experiences that causes her first to declare Jesus to be a prophet and later to bear witness to the entire city. For the Samaritan woman, Jesus' entrance into the private crevice of her life was stunningly good news. Grace was the gift of being known.

In worship on Ash Wednesday, I asked you to jot down the places you experience brokenness and vulnerability. You shared deeply. I thank you for that. Both Pastor Jay and I commented that I got what I asked for—a litany of life experiences that the Samaritan woman would have understood well. In the days since, I've been sitting with your cards beside my computer. One of the things that has struck me as I've slowly turned through them is the fact that more than one of you asked something like, "Would I be loveable, if people really knew me?"

I want y'all to hear a clear "yes" spoken in response. I don't usually consider it my business to offer what seem like easy answers to questions I know to be layered with complication. But Jesus' work beside the well confirms for us in a profound way that God's love for God's beloved is free-flowing and inexhaustible. You and I are known deeply. And loved deeply by the One who graciously finds us and frees us. That's the gospel we're shown by the woman who *Simply. Came. To. Fetch. Some. Water.* That's the truth about Jesus that 20-somethings and 90-somethings alike long to hear. And it's the end of the sermon I want to preach. Today, receive God's gracious "yes" poured out for you.

—Ingrid Rasmussen, pastor

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Baptism is sometimes called enlightenment. The gospel for this Sunday is the story of the man born blind healed by Christ.

I am blind, but now I see, declares the man. In baptism God opens our eyes to see the truth of who we are: God's beloved sons and daughters.

As David was anointed king of Israel, in baptism God anoints our head with oil, and calls us to bear witness to the light of Christ in our daily lives.



LESSONS

I Samuel 16:1-13

Psalms 23

Ephesians 5:8-14

John 9:1-41

SUNDAY ADULT FORUM

10:00 am — In the library

MARCH 30 "Grief and Hope in our Church Community"
David Broberg & Heather Olson

During our lifetimes, we might experience various kinds of loss. We might also find support in a number of places. As we continue our series on grief and hope, Holy Trinity members David Broberg and Heather Olson will briefly reflect on personal grief experiences. Pastor Jay and Pastor Ingrid will then invite further conversation about grief and our congregation's ministry of bearing one another's burdens.

APRIL 6 "Holding Grief"
David Berg

David Berg, Holy Trinity member and retired hospital chaplain, will share what he has learned through his ministry about the cumulative characteristics of grief. David will invite congregants to think through and document their encounters with loss, grief, and hope. Facilitated small group discussion will offer space for sharing.

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. We need volunteers to make soup, set up, and clean up. Sign up in the Community Room.

MARCH FOODSHARE CAMPAIGN IS HERE

Fight hunger in Minnesota! Bring your donations of cash or nonperishable food items to Holy Trinity any time through Palm Sunday, April 13. There is a collection basket in the Community Room.

PARISH INFORMATION

REFUGEE FAMILY SPONSORSHIP

We have a tentative timeline for the refugee family we are sponsoring. Minnesota Council of Churches will soon pair us with a family, most likely from Burma or Somalia. In order to prepare for their arrival, which may occur between April 7-11, we need additional volunteers and household goods. You can find more information in the Community Room or speak to Dave Moe to learn more.

MEALS ON WHEELS DELIVERY

Holy Trinity will be delivering meals the week of April 14-18. Volunteers are needed to deliver meals for 1-5 days of the week. Meals are picked up at Nokomis Square, 35th Ave. and 50th St at 11:10 a.m. Delivery takes about one hour. Sign up in the Community Room or call Mary Engen.

TAKE PART IN A CONGREGATIONAL SEASON OF LISTENING

Building on the work of the Vision Task Force of last year and recognizing the exciting growth within our congregation, the Holy Trinity Church Council has begun a process of careful discernment about plans for future mission and ministry at Holy Trinity. We will be working with Kairos and Associates, a local and faith-based consulting group, to launch a special time of listening.

As the first step of this process, we invite you to complete the Church Assessment Tool (CAT), an on-line instrument that will help us better understand the strength, vitality, and trends in our church. The information gained from this survey will be valuable in helping us as we make decisions for our future together. Holy Trinity members will receive an email on April 1 with a link to the CAT. Please click on the link provided to tell us about your experiences in and priorities for our congregation's ministry. If you would prefer a paper copy, please call or come to the office, and we will provide one for you along with a self-addressed stamped return envelope. All answers are strictly anonymous.

Thank you for taking part in this time of listening. Our growth will be healthier and more faithful when it includes all of our voices.

SEMINARY TUITION SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED

A seminarian tuition fund has been established at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church through a generous bequest from the Oscar and Eleanor Ostrom estate. Its primary beneficiaries will be members of Holy Trinity who are seeking rostering in the ELCA as a response to their call to ministry and service. The first scholarship of \$1,000 has been awarded to Holy Trinity member Meagan McLaughlin. Meagan is seeking ordination in the ELCA and plans to begin her internship next year with a Twin Cities congregation.

PARISH EVENTS March 30 - April 5, 2014

Sunday	8:45, 11 am	Worship Services with Holy Communion
	9:45 am	Sunday School
	10:00 am	Adult Forum
	2:00 pm	Swahili Service
Monday	10:00 am	Yoga for Seniors
	11 - 2:30 pm	AARP Tax Aide
	7:00 pm	Committee Chairs
Tuesday	11 - 2:30 pm	AARP Tax Aide
	3:30 - 5:30 pm	Open Gym
Wednesday	10:00 am	Lectionary Text Study
	5 - 8:00 pm	Labyrinth
	5:30 pm	Lenten Soup Supper
	6:00 pm	Children's Choir, 6:30 pm Cantate!
	7:00 pm	Evening Prayer Service
	7:45 pm	Adult Choir
Friday	10:00 am	Yoga for Seniors

Food Shelf by Vern/Vi Michaelson

Theatre Circle in honor of **Sandy Hoverson's** 70th Birthday by her family

Exodus Lending in memory of **Bernetta Thornby** by Sandra Thornby

Special gift in memory of **June Englund** by Roland/Betty Englund

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS March 30, 2013

8:45 AM		11:00 AM
Jay Carlson	Preacher	Jay Carlson
Ingrid Rasmussen	Presiding Minister	Ingrid Rasmussen
	Acolytes	Ethan/Kristen Townsend
Carol Masters	Assisting Minister	Sandy Hoverson
Andrea Hansen, P Blomgren, Jeff Weiss	Communion	Alan Libra, Deb Sodt, Anna Brelje
Carol/David Berg	Altar Guild	Meagan/Karen McLaughlin
Bob Peschiutta, Chris Engen	Ushers	Kathy Ohler, Riley Conway, George Madich, Lee Kampinen
	Nursery	Joy Nelson
DeWayne Townsend III	Coffee Servers	Lee/Judi Kampinen
Bob Peschiutta, A Hines	Counters	Scott Cole, Deb Helmelt
	Closer	Cliff Brown

Financial Report	March 23	Year to Date
Budget Requirements	13,591.35	163,096.15
Budget Receipts	4,234.50	148,278.21
Food Shelf	120.00	150.00
World Hunger	-	273.00
Boiler Donations	140.00	15,522.50
African Pastor's endowment	50.00	665.00
Exodus Appeal	50.00	50.00

Office phone: 612-729-8358
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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