



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

POWER MADE PERFECT IN WEAKNESS

Sermon excerpt by Parish Organizing Leader, Meghan Olsen Biebighauser, who is currently also serving as Interim Director for Exodus Lending.

Somewhere along the way (we suspect it's at the Lutheran daycare center she attends) our two-and-a-half year old Frances learned the song, "Jesus Loves Me." It's not my favorite of the Sunday school classics. It's the part about the little ones who belong to Jesus – "they are weak, but he is strong." The latter part is fine: Jesus is strong, among lots of other things. But I wish this song would stop sending the message to these little ones, particularly the little girls, that they're weak. As a parent who's deeply invested in raising a girl who's aware of her own power, I cringe when I hear my baby sing this.

Today's reading from Paul's letter to the Corinthians is also tough for me, particularly as the staff member here at Holy Trinity charged with organizing this congregation and community to build power—to be aware of our own power, to make others aware of theirs, and to alter the relations of power in order to win real, immediate, and concrete improvements in people's lives.

Paul seems to be describing here a personal physical deficiency, and when he seeks God's healing he hears from God that God's "power is made perfect in weakness." His message to the Corinthians then is to be "content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities, for the sake of Christ." Yikes! Power made perfect in weakness.

This passage may be one of the reasons the Church often has a difficult time talking about power. There can be resistance among Christians to talk about wanting or having power. Jesus blessed the meek, after all. We caution against lording "power over" people, or corrupt or greedy power, or being "drunk with power."

In community organizing, we define power as the "ability to act on one's values." From the Latin *posse*, it's simply "to be able." And the power that we have when we organize isn't the coercive power that makes us so nervous, that holds people under its thumb, or exists with no accountability to benefit only a few. The power that we have is relational power, what the Rev. Rebecca Messman describes as "the engine of relationships that are at work inside and outside of a congregation."

So where does weakness fit in? Here's how I can find some peace with Paul. Building powerful relationships involves sharing with one another our weaknesses and our vulnerabilities. It's only in this sharing, this disclosing to one another the "hardships and calamities" of which Paul encourages us to "boast" that we can build a prophetic and powerful community.

We've seen it here in our congregation's work on the issue of predatory payday lending. Relationships built in this community where the great love and trust that we have for one another lead us to share difficulties. All of these years of work began with one person saying to another "I am in debt. I am trapped." And off we went—together, all of us, empowered by God's Spirit to respond and reform.

My daughter, just like every child of God, has the power to do many things. The only situation where she's truly powerless is when she insists that she can do it herself. It's the same for us. Sharing our shortcomings with one another with the full expectation that the community of Christ will fill in the gaps is what makes us such a powerful community. Showing up and picking up where others end is what we promise one another at Baptism, in marriage, when we welcome new members—every chance we get, really. Thanks be to God, and to each other.

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

When Amos told what he saw when God held up the plumb line of justice next to Israel—that the poor were being trampled—he was a threat to the power of priests and king. John the baptist also spoke truth to power, and Herod had him beheaded.



READINGS

Amos 7:7-15
Psalm 85:8-13
Ephesians 1:3-14
Mark 6:14-29

ADULT FORUM

10:00 am – in the Library

JULY 12 "Advent in July"

The worship staff and Worship and Fine Arts Committee at Holy Trinity are thinking ahead to Advent, which this year begins on Sunday, November 29. They hope to incorporate the congregation into the planning process, which is why they invite y'all to join them on Sundays, July 12 and 26, to discuss the season's texts and to imagine visual, musical, and liturgical elements that might bring them to life. No prior worship planning experience necessary!

JULY 19 "Conversation with Senator John Marty"

Senator John Marty will join us to share reflections and observations about the just-concluded legislative session.

MEALS ON WHEELS DELIVERY

Holy Trinity will be delivering meals for South Minneapolis Meals on Wheels July 20-24. Volunteers are needed to deliver meals. Sign up in the Community Room or call Mary Engen. Meals are picked up at 11:15 a.m. at Nokomis Square, 35th Ave. S. and 50th St. Delivery time will take about an hour.

RINGING OUR FAITH YOUTH HANDBELL CAMP, JULY 20-23

9 a.m.-3 p.m., grades 4-8 (beginning technique)

3 p.m.-5 p.m., grades 9-12 (intermediate/advanced technique)

Come and learn how to make music on our amazingly versatile White Chapel handbells from London. Experience the excitement of mallets and martelatto, the mystery of the singing bell, and the thrill of plucking and tower swinging, in original arrangements composed just for you! Family and friends are invited to a program on Thursday at 6:30 p.m. where we will show off our new skills. There is no charge for this workshop, but please contact the church office to register SOON for one of our remaining spots. Must love music and have some music-reading experience. Grades 4-8 should bring a lunch from home each day.

All are welcome to sing in the choir Sunday, July 12, at the 11:00 a.m. service. Rehearse at 9:45 a.m. in the sanctuary.

PARISH INFORMATION

YOUTH GATHERING IN DETROIT

On Tuesday, July 14, 12 Holy Trinity youth and 4 adults, including Pastor Jay and David Sims, will depart for the ELCA youth gathering in Detroit. They will join about 35,000 other ELCA youth to worship, learn, and serve together. We will offer prayers of blessing for their trip during the 11:00 service this Sunday.

20S, 30S, AND 40S GROUP

Mark your calendars for two upcoming events:

Join Lee Fisher and Jenny Wheatley at Harriet Brewing on **July 30 at 6:30 p.m.** for a beer and music by The Mad Ripple Hootenany. Sign up in the Community Room or call the church office to save a spot!

Allison Johnson will be hosting a backyard BBQ on **the evening of August 28** at her new home on Milwaukee Avenue, which has an interesting history. She invites you to read up on it prior to the party (wikipedia.org/wiki/Milwaukee_Avenue_Historic_District). Sign up in the Community Room or call the church office. Should you want childcare provided at the church on either of these evenings, let Pastor Ingrid know.

MUSIC IN THE GARDEN JULY 12

Join us this Sunday in the rain garden for lunch and for music by the Cameron Kinghorn Quartet. Suggested donation for lunch is \$5.

LISTENING TO GOD ON THE JOURNEY

Registration is now open for the Holy Trinity Adult Retreat at Villa Maria in Frontenac, Minnesota, on Friday and Saturday, October 16-17. Join organizers Liz Blood, Bryan Kuzel, Lisa Martens, Kathy Ohler, and Pastor Ingrid as we explore the theme *Listening to God on the Journey*. Using ancient practices like the Examen and not-so-ancient tools like the Enneagram, we'll listen for the Spirit's movement in our lives and learn to follow her leading. We'll also have plenty of time to explore the beautiful shores of Lake Pepin. Cost is \$100, which includes transportation (van will depart at 4:00 p.m. on Friday and return by 6:00 p.m. on Saturday), meals, lodging (single rooms this year!), and all training materials. Scholarships are available; simply speak with Pastor Ingrid.

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

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612-729-8358. Periodicals postage paid at St. Paul, Minnesota. Pastors Jay Carlson,
Ingrid Rasmussen

PARISH EVENTS July 12-18, 2015	
Sunday	8:45 am Worship Service with Holy Communion
	9:45 am Summer Choir Rehearsal
	10:00 am Adult Forum
Monday	11:00 am Worship Service with Holy Communion
	12:00 pm Lunch and Music in the Garden
Tuesday	2:00 pm Swahili Service
	7:00 pm Nurturing, Stewardship Committees
Wednesday	8:00 am Youth leave for ELCA Gathering in Detroit
	10 am-3 pm Mosaic Workshop
	11:00 am Worship Readings Discussion
Thursday	6:30 pm Writers' Circle
	10 am-3 pm Mosaic Workshop
	3:30-5:30 pm Fare for All Express
	8:00 am Encore! at Turtle Bread

Gift to African Pastors' Fund in honor of Nancy/Joel Wiberg's anniversary by Cathryn Olson.

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS JULY 12, 2015		
8:45 AM	11:00 AM	
	Crucifer	Anna Brelje
Grayson Wieczorek	Acolytes	Ethan Townsend Kristen Townsend
Rick Liedholm	Assisting Minister	Roberta Shaw
	Communion	Melanie Townsend
Lisa/Bruce Martens	Altar Guild	Stella Townsend, Cori Gershon
Bob Peschiutta, DeWayne Townsend, Marcea Mariani	Ushers	Joshua Combs, George Madich, Donna Scott
	Coffee Servers	Pam Blomgren
	Counters	John Sulzbach, Scott Cole
	Closer	John Sulzbach

Financial Report	July 5	Year to date
Budget requirement	13,982.69	377,532.69
Budget receipts	16,842.28	369,807.81
African Pastors' Endowment	50.00	315.00
Broadway School	-	1,659.00
Exodus Appeal	5.00	3,577.84
World Hunger		1,985.00
Disaster Relief		1,305.00