



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 and Ingrid Rasmussen, Pastors

NOW IS THE TIME

Sermon excerpt from January 17, based on John 2:1-11

In the gospel of Matthew, it's a sermon that jumpstarts Jesus' ministry. In the gospel of Mark, it's an exorcism that gets him on the map. In the gospel of Luke it's a spirit released from a man with a shriek that earns Jesus local notoriety. In John, it's Cana. Way, way before author Malcolm Gladwell's *Blink*, my grandmother told me that first impressions are important. It's fair to assume that responding to a booze emergency at a townie wedding wasn't how the Son of God hoped to take his first steps into the public arena.

"Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come," we hear him say when the party disaster is made known to him. Interpreters have been hard on Jesus for his tone. They suggest that Jesus is distancing himself from his mother with this harsh address. But, having older brothers and a mother, I hear it differently. I hear Jesus say: "Mama, please, don't make me do this." And I hear Mary say, "But, Baby, they have no wine. I've watched you for thirty years and know you can do something about it."

To Jesus' "not yet," Mary says, "Now is the time for you to be who you are."

On April 12, 1963, eight prominent religious leaders—seven pastors and one rabbi—crafted and published a letter in the local newspapers urging the Black community to withdraw support from the demonstrations led by Martin Luther King, Jr. These men—considered by most to be progressives—encouraged the community to "show restraint," to "observe the principles of law and order and common sense," and to "press for change in the courts, not in the streets." In words that their children would later say came to haunt them for the rest of their lives, they wrote, "We are now confronted by a series of demonstrations...We recognize the natural impatience of people who feel that their hopes are slow in being realized. But we are convinced that these demonstrations are unwise and untimely."

In response to the clergymen's letter, Martin Luther King penned and published a letter from his jail cell in Birmingham, saying,

While confined here in the Birmingham city jail, I came across your recent statement calling our present activities "unwise and untimely." ...I must confess that over the last few years I have been gravely disappointed with the white moderate. I have almost reached the regrettable conclusion that the Negro's great stumbling block in the stride toward freedom is not the White Citizens Councillor or the Ku Klux Klanner but the white moderate who is more devoted to order than to justice; who prefers a negative peace which is the absence of tension to a positive peace which is the presence of justice; who constantly says, "I agree with you in the goal you seek, but I can't agree with your methods of direct action"; who paternalistically feels that he can set the timetable for another man's freedom; who lives by the myth of time; and who constantly advises the Negro to wait until a "more convenient season."

I wish you had commended the Negro demonstrators of Birmingham for their sublime courage, their willingness to suffer, and their amazing discipline in the midst of the most inhuman provocation. One day the South will recognize its real heroes...They will be old, oppressed, battered Negro women, symbolized in a seventy-two-year-old woman of Montgomery, Alabama, who rose up with a sense of dignity and with her people decided not to ride the segregated buses, and responded to one who inquired about her tiredness with ungrammatical profundity, "My feet is tired, but my soul is rested." They will be young high school and college students, young ministers of the gospel and a host of their elders courageously and nonviolently sitting in at lunch counters and willingly going to jail for conscience's sake. One day the South will know that when these disinherited children of God sat down at lunch counters they were in reality standing up for the best in the American dream and the most sacred values in our Judeo-Christian heritage.

To the church's "not yet," Martin King says, "Now is the time for you to be who you are."

A blessed MLK Day to you.

—Ingrid Rasmussen, Pastor

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

The glory of the Lord is revealed in the reading of scripture. People stand at attention. People weep. People prostrate themselves in prayer. The unity of the church is another reflection of the glory of God. Most gloriously, the promises of God are fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ. Gather round. Listen up. Glimpse the glory of God.



READINGS

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10
Psalm 19
1 Corinthians 12:12-31a
Luke 4:14-21

ADULT FORUM

10:00 am – in the Library

JANUARY 24 "Report from Luther Park"

This is an adult forum you won't want to miss. Hear the Confirmation students, who have just returned from their retreat in Danbury, Wisconsin, reflect on their time together. They'll talk about hope, too.

JANUARY 31 "Preview of the Annual Meeting"

This Sunday's adult forum will offer a preview of the annual meeting which will be held in the gymnasium following the 11:00 a.m. worship service. Subjects to be addressed at that meeting will be discussed by Pastors Jay Carlson and Ingrid Rasmussen and by members of the Church Council. Join the conversation.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING SUNDAY, JANUARY 31

The Annual Congregational Meeting will take place on Sunday, January 31, 2016, immediately following the 11:00 worship service. Lunch will be provided. All members are encouraged to attend.

THIRD ANNUAL FAMILY RETREAT FEBRUARY 12-14, 2016

All are invited to join the family retreat from Friday, February 12-Sunday, February 14, at the Chi Rho Retreat Center in Annandale, Minnesota. Cost is \$80/adult and \$50/child age 4-18 (0-3 are free). Cost includes lodging and four meals. This lightly-structured weekend includes a family art project, a ping pong tournament, some outdoor activities, and a worship service. Scholarships are available; talk to Pastor Jay Carlson. Sign up in the Community Room.

BIBLE BASICS

Get a bowl of soup and a piece of bread and join retired pastors Harry Mueller and John Buzza for a Bible Basics class on Wednesdays (February 17 and 24; March 2, 9, and 16) during Lent from 5:45-6:45 p.m. in the library. This class is for anyone wanting to learn more about scripture and interpretation. John and Harry promise to be approachable and to welcome your questions. Sign up in the Community Room by February 10.

PARISH INFORMATION

ANNUAL RECONCILING IN CHRIST FESTIVAL WORSHIP SERVICE

Since 1974, ReconcilingWorks: Lutherans for Full Participation has advocated for the full welcome, inclusion, and equity of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) Lutherans in all aspects of the life of their Church, congregations, and community. All are welcome Saturday, January 30, 4:30 p.m., at Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church, 4150 Dupont Ave. N., Minneapolis. Pastor Robyn Provis presiding, guest preacher Pastor Kelly Chatman. Soup supper to follow. A freewill offering will be accepted.

PARENTS' NIGHT OUT FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5

Adults and youth work together caring for HTLC children while their parents go "out" from 6:00-9:00 p.m. Sign up in the Community Room by Sunday, January 31, to help with childcare or to save a spot for your child(ren) in the nursery. Volunteers must complete a background check through Holy Trinity.

FIRST FRIDAY WITH FRIENDS FEBRUARY 5

Join the 20s, 30s, 40s group for ice skating at the Lake Hiawatha rink. After we've fallen a few times, we'll walk to Heather Mitchell and Bryan Kuzel's nearby home to warm up. Sign up in the Community Room by Sunday, January 31.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST AND BAKE SALE FEBRUARY 7

The middle school and high school youth invite everyone to breakfast in the gym before or after worship. Proceeds from the breakfast and bake sale will support summer youth trips, especially a trip in July to Camp Christikon near Billings, Montana. Tickets are \$5 and will be available Sundays in the Community Room and at the door.

If you wish to donate baked goods for the bake sale, please sign up in the Community Room or talk to Melanie Townsend.

STUDY/TRAVEL SEMINAR TO GERMANY

Those interested in participating in the Study/Travel Seminar to Germany in October of this year are reminded that a deposit of \$375 by February 1 will guarantee a reservation for the event. Checks should be made out to Holy Trinity Lutheran Church and sent to the church office. Deposits are refundable up to June 1. For more information contact Randy Nelson.

DID YOU KNOW...

The item probably in longest continuous use in our worship is the baptismal font. It was given in memory of David Gregory Engdahl who died in 1923 at the age of two. The gilt bowl is a recent addition.

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

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

PARISH EVENTS January 24-30, 2016

Sunday	8:45 am	Worship Service with Holy Communion
	9:30 am	Confirmation
	9:45 am	Sunday School
	10:00 am	Adult Forum
Tuesday	11:00 am	Worship Service with Holy Communion
	2:00 pm	Swahili Service
Wednesday	11:00 am	Worship Readings Discussion
	5:30 pm	Choir Families Supper
	6:00 pm	Youth Choirs
	7:30 pm	Adult Choir

Children's Choir in memory of Paul Eid by Carol Johnson

CONCERNING PEOPLE

We celebrate the baptism of **Mateo Rodriguez** and gratefully welcome him into this community of faith. Please pray for all our homebound members who can no longer gather with the whole community for worship.

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS JANUARY 24, 2016

8:45 AM		11:00 AM
Paul Thorson	Crucifer	Jeff Olsen Biebighauser
Elena Alpizar, Anton Werth	Acolytes	Marianna Hefte, Molly Davison
Andrea Hansen	Assisting Minister	Paul Ramsour
Lyle Steinfeldt	Communion	Sue Roberts, John Sulzbach
Lisa/Bruce Martens	Altar Guild	Carol Lane, Rosemary Foley
Bob Peschiutta, Sally/David Kohlstedt	Ushers	Riley Conway, Kathy Ohler, Deb Sodt, Joshua Combs
Julie/Tom Cahoy	Coffee Servers	Vicki/Mike Mann
Joyce Peterson, Donna Heyer	Counters	John Sulzbach, Pam Kildahl
	Closer	Deb Sodt

Financial Report	January 17	Year to date
Budget receipts	12,672.28	55,540.49
Opening Doors	3,627.87	20,492.87
Longfellow/Broadway H.S.	10.00	20.00
World Hunger	41.00	66.00