

Dr. Gafney, writing in *The New York Times*, speaks about the risk of biblical literalism and how she teaches her students to read the Bible.

I teach students to consider three aspects, to shift from asking "Is the Bible true?" to "How is the Bible true?" First, determine what the text says. This requires knowledge of original languages, because all translations are unreliable at points. Second, consider as much as possible what the text may have meant in its original contexts. This could mean learning what expressions were euphemisms and how language may have evolved before and after the text was written. And third, ask what the text says in our modern contexts – which values and themes transcend time and which do not.

If all this sounds like hard work, it is. Not every reader is willing to delve into questions about the genre, rhetoric, and interpretive possibilities of a text. Many prefer simplistic formulas. But surely all modern readers accept that the earth does not have four corners, though that was the literal meaning when the texts of the Bible were composed and transmitted. All readers interpret through belief and experience, regardless of whether they realize or admit it. What we bring to the text shapes what we see, for good and ill.



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THE Johnson Symposium
ON FAITH & SOCIETY

Celebrating the ministries of Ronald K. Johnson and Stacy K. Johnson at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

Featuring

The Rev. Dr. Wil Gafney

November 4 & 5, 2016



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
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A Reconciling in Christ
Congregation

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"Sex, Gender, and Identity in the Scriptures"
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**“Sex, Gender, & Identity
in the Scriptures”**

Friday Evening

- 6:00 Doors open
6:30 Music
7:00 “The Heart of Torah: Writing Sex,
Gender, & Identity in Leviticus”
8:45-9:15 Service of Evening Prayer

Saturday Morning

- 8:00 Doors open
8:30 “Exodus, From Slavery to Slavery:
Sex-Slavery in Ancient Israel”
10:15 Break
10:45-12:00 “Queendom: Royal Women
in Israel and Judah”

Each presentation by Rev. Dr. Gafney
will be followed by a time of Q & A.

The Rev. Dr. Wil Gafney is Associate Professor of Hebrew Bible at Brite Divinity School in Fort Worth, Texas. Gafney, an Episcopal Priest, is a member of the historic African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas in Philadelphia, PA.

Prior to joining the Episcopal Church, she served as a U.S. Army Reserve Chaplain.

Rev. Dr. Gafney is the author of *Womanist Midrash: A Reintroduction to the Women of the Torah and the Throne* (2017) and *Daughters of Miriam: Women Prophets in Ancient Israel*. She is co-editor of *The Peoples’ Bible* and *The Peoples’ Companion to the Bible*.

She is a prolific blogger and regular commentator on current issues.

We hope you will join us for the seventh annual Johnson Symposium on Faith & Society as we welcome Rev. Dr. Wil Gafney.

Rev. Ronald K. Johnson served as pastor of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church from 1974 to 2006. In 1998 **Rev. Stacy K. Johnson** joined the pastoral staff and also served until 2006. Under their leadership, Holy Trinity became recognized as a place for serious dialogue and reflection on issues of faith and society.

Previous Symposium Presenters

- 2010 – Dr. Marcus Borg
2011 – The Rev. Heidi Neumark
2012 – ELCA Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson
2013 – Dr. Larry Rasmussen
2014 – The Rev. Nadia Bolz-Weber
2015 – Dr. John Arthur Nunes

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church • 2016 Johnson Symposium registration form
Rev. Dr. Wil Gafney • Friday, Nov. 4 at 6:30 p.m. & Saturday, Nov. 5 at 8:30 a.m.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email address _____

Registration Fees: Friday lecture – \$10 per person, Saturday sessions – \$20 per person. Registration before November 1st for BOTH Friday and Saturday sessions – \$25 per person. Scholarships are available. Call the church office for more information.

Number of people attending Friday evening lecture _____
Number of people attending Saturday morning sessions _____ Total registration fee enclosed _____

Please fill out one registration form per household. Mail registration form and check to:

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