



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

BIBLICAL BIASES

*Excerpts from a sermon given by Rev. Dr. Wil Gafney,
2016 Johnson Symposium Presenter*

REGISTER NOW FOR THE NOVEMBER 4-5 WEEKEND!

³⁶One of the Pharisees asked Jesus to eat with him, and he went into the Pharisee's house and took his place at the table. ³⁷And a woman in the city, who was a sinner, having learned that he was eating in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster jar of ointment. ³⁸She stood behind him at his feet, weeping, and began to bathe his feet with her tears and to dry them with her hair. Then she continued kissing his feet and anointing them with the ointment. ³⁹Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw it, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what kind of woman this is who is touching him—that she is a sinner." —Luke 7

In the Name of God who loves us all.

You know what kind of woman she is. The kind of woman folk call a sinner. In and out of the bible that often means she's doing something with her body of which somebody else disapproves. She's free, but some will say she's loose. Or she's a victim of their fantasies about what women who look like her or are shaped like her really want or do. Or she's a victim of someone else's lust and rage and blamed for surviving. Or she is a race or ethnicity that has been constructed as perpetually promiscuous. She might be a sex worker. She might be an accomplished lover with stories to tell. But what she is known as is a sinner.

The woman who anointed Jesus might have been called a Jezebel in another time. African American women have a long history of being called Jezebels. It goes back to the abuse of African women who were held as slaves and then blamed for their own abuse, called lascivious and insatiable. Some ads for slaves in newspapers actually called African women being sold "lusty." The characterization of black women as jezebels didn't end with slavery. For a long time after black women could not get justice for sexual assaults; officers wouldn't take reports. Prosecutors wouldn't press rape charges but black women were prosecuted for assault if they fought their attackers, some were even put to death. So while for some women and girls, being called a jezebel means you're fast and loose, for black women being called a jezebel could lead to devastating consequences. Calling someone a jezebel is about controlling them, their body, and self-expression.

Reading scripture faithfully means reading it honestly. There is ethnic bias in the bible. There is gender bias in the bible. There is bias against same-gender loving people, particularly men in the bible. That particular bias stems from an Israelite cultural bias, in part of the horror of rape of men in war—not matched by equal concern for the rape of women. The bible reflects the biases of those who wrote it, yet the light of God shines and speaks through it.

The bible also proclaims that God created us all from the same source. We are all her children, she is the rock who gave birth to us, and one day all nations will stream to the mountain of God. The bible has biases and we have to figure out how we are going to deal with those biases. When the church has taken the biases of the bible uncritically, we've been culpable in murder. The church is responsible for poor biblical exegesis. We can choose whether we will perpetuate the narrow biases of the Iron Age or whether we will elevate those texts that transcend ancient hatreds and those of our own day.

—from June 16, 2016, www.wilgafney.com/blog-page/

TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Jesus says, "It is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." It is God's promise from the beginning—to Abraham, to the early church, and to the "little flock" of which we are a part today in assembly. Faith, God's baptismal gift, trusts the promises of God. Have no fear.



READINGS

Genesis 15:1-6
Psalm 33:12-22
Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16
Luke 12:32-40

ADULT FORUM

10:00 am—in the Library

AUGUST 7

"Palliative Care"

Dr. Jacob Strand, Palliative Care Specialist

The forum is pleased to welcome Dr. Jacob Strand, a palliative care specialist at Mayo Clinic in Rochester. Born the child of a Lutheran pastor, Jacob's studies have led him to the Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, the Palliative Medicine Program at Harvard, and now to the Internal Medicine Program at Mayo. With a focus on improving quality of life for patients, Jacob will discuss the changing role of modern palliative care, address common misconceptions, and present a case for early integration of palliative care in the treatment of patients dealing with serious illness. He'll also field questions. This is a forum you won't want to miss!

AUGUST 14

"Payday Lending Reform Efforts"

Meghan Olsen Biebighauser, Parish Organizer

Holy Trinity has been a leader in the fight for predatory payday lending reform in Minnesota since 2012, with a valiant, but ultimately unsuccessful legislative attempt in 2014 in which many HT members were engaged. Now, the federal government is getting involved, proposing new rules to rein in these lenders. Parish Organizer Meghan Olsen Biebighauser will walk us through where we've been, what the proposed rules mean for us in Minnesota, and where the work in Minnesota may be heading, as we at HT will continue to discern our role together.

PRIVILEGE AND RACE CONFERENCE AT HOLY TRINITY, OCT. 7-8

"Journey Toward Justice: Privilege and Race in the Church" is a conference spearheaded by Holy Trinity's Racial Justice Working Group and sponsored by other Lutheran congregations and organizations in the Twin Cities. It will be held October 7-8, 2016, at Holy Trinity. Check our website (htlcmpls.org/justice/privilege-and-race) for details. If, after reviewing the schedule and participation requirements, you would like to participate, please talk to Libby Olstad or Meghan Olsen Biebighauser. If you are willing to help with the practicalities of the conference (e.g. registration, hosting with food, guiding attendees to rooms), please indicate your availability. Volunteers will also be able to participate in the weekend's events.

PARISH INFORMATION

COMMUNITY SOLAR LUNCH & UPDATE SUNDAY, AUGUST 7, NOON
Join volunteers from Holy Trinity's Faithful Energy Team for lunch and an update on our community solar garden to be constructed this fall by MN Community Solar. Dave Moe and Sean Gosiewski can answer any questions you might have about signing up. Spaces are still available for those who join in August. Learn more at www.mncommunitysolar.com/causes/holy-trinity-lutheran-church.

SIGN UP FOR BWCA TRIP

There are openings for 2 people on the BWCA canoe trip, August 12-15. We'd love to have you join us. If you are interested or want more details, contact John Sulzbach or Tom/Julie Cahoy.

LET'S GO CAMPING!

Children and Family Ministry is planning a group camping trip for anyone who would like to have a somewhat rustic experience without going too far from home. We'll camp at Nerstrand Big Woods State Park. Dates are August 19-21. Contact Theresa Rian with questions. Sign up in the Community Room.

SUMMER CHOIR OPPORTUNITY SUNDAY, AUGUST 21

Everyone is welcome to sing as a choir in worship on Sunday, August 21, at the 11:00 service. No advance preparation is required; simply show up at 9:45 a.m. to rehearse.

GRATITUDE RETREAT FRIDAY-SATURDAY, SEPT. 30-OCT. 1, 2016

Only a few spaces remain for the Gratitude Retreat in Collegeville, Minnesota, Friday-Saturday, September 30-October 1, 2016. We'll have opportunities to connect with one another and with the Benedictine community at St. John's. Cost is \$100. Scholarships are available. Talk with Pastor Ingrid. Sign up and pay by Monday, September 12.

CONCERNING PEOPLE

Congratulations to **Cliff Brown** and **Marianne Wargelin**, celebrating 50 years of marriage this week.

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

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Rasmussen

PARISH EVENTS August 7-13, 2016

Sunday	8:45 am	Worship Service with Holy Communion
	10:00 am	Adult Forum
	11:00 am	Worship Service with Holy Communion
	12:00 pm	Solar Q & A
	12:15 pm	First Sunday Musings at Himalayan
Monday	2:00 pm	Swahili Service
	7:00 pm	Financial Stewardship
Tuesday	10:00 am	Mosaic Workshop on 4th floor
	11:00 am	Worship Readings Discussion
Wednesday	6:30 pm	Writers' Circle
	3:30-5:30 pm	Fare for All
Thursday	6:30-8:30 pm	Youth Committee
Friday		Boundary Waters Trip

World Hunger by Sandra Thornby, Sandra Nelson, Rosemary Foley
Refugee Resettlement by Sandra Thornby, Rosemary Foley, and in memory of brother, Merle, by Lyle Steinfeldt
Opening Doors in memory of Jim Benson by cousins Bev Peschiutta, Gayle Scheer, Marlyce Bjeldanes

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS AUGUST 7, 2016

8:45 AM	11:00 AM
	Acolytes Sara Christians, Marianna Hefte
Josh Becker	Crucifer
David Kohlstedt	Assisting Minister Scott Cole
Lyle Steinfeldt, Kevin Proescholdt	Communion Susan Wootten
Julie/Tom Cahoy	Altar Guild Stella Townsend, Linda Woytasek
Bob Peschiutta, Julie/Tom Cahoy	Ushers Mike Mann, Sam Kleven, Camilo Rudolph, John Kelly
Mary/Chris Engen	Coffee Servers needed
Joyce Peterson, Pam Blomgren	Counters John Sulzbach, Pam Kildahl
	Closer Rod Johnson

Financial Report	July 31	Year to date
Budget requirement	14,432.69	447,413.46
Budget Receipts	12,339.78	427,455.36
Opening Doors	337.87	219,289.10
World Hunger	125.00	3,046.68
Refugee Resettlement	250.00	820.00