



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

RACIAL JUSTICE CONFERENCE

This weekend, Holy Trinity will host nearly 500 people, in congregational teams, as we look at issues of race and privilege, particularly as they are manifested in the Church. We'll ask one another big questions—"What does 'white privilege' or 'white culture' look like in our congregation? What does it mean when we either do or don't reflect the racial composition of our neighborhood? What do we mean when we talk about diversity, and what does that have to do with liberation and reconciliation?"

Seminarian Elle Dowd, of decolonizelutheranism.org, articulates some of these big questions in a recent blog post:

In community organizing we say that power is the ability to change things and influence people, and we believe that our power resides in our relationships with one another. That is why community organizing puts such emphasis on building relationships, on one-on-ones, on networking, on meeting people. Each individual has different gifts, different connections, and we can serve each other in different ways. This is what the writer of 1 Corinthians was speaking about in chapter 12, referring to many members and one body. When we work together, we are able to accomplish more, to co-create alongside the Spirit, to bring forth the reign of God in our lives. It is because of the relational and communal nature of God, of Church, of beloved communities throughout history that I do believe that integration of Sunday worship is essential.

And yet integration has often had harmful effects on communities of color and done little to change the status quo in our churches. Even in congregations where people of color are welcome, we often see that the power structure and culture continue to center on whiteness.

When we, as white Christians, speak of "diversity," what do we mean? Do we mean a diversity of opinions, of experiences, of expressions? Or do we look for a surface level of "diversity" that requires no sacrifice from people in power?

Do we invite people of color, but continue to make the church a space where "colorblindness" is held as an ideal, where bringing up systemic racism and injustice is seen as "divisive"?

Does our "diversity" change us? Does it make us face our privilege? Does it push us to rally against mass incarceration? Does it insist we disrupt the school-to-prison pipeline? Does it tug our hearts towards abolishing ICE? Does it lead us to ask questions about reparations?

"Diversity" alone as a goal is harmful for the Church because diversity without an examination of privilege leads to a push for assimilation for communities of color. Diversity without deconstruction of power means, "You can be a part of us...as long as you are just like us."

Our God is a God who delights in diversity. She created people of all shapes and sizes and colors and genders. And She creates them beautiful, in Her own image. But our God does not use "diversity" as Her qualifying identifier. Our God does not say, "I am the LORD your God who brought you forth in diversity." She says over (Psalm 81:10), and over (Exodus 20), and over (Deut. 5:6), "I am the LORD your God who brought you out of slavery." Our God is a God of Liberation. That's what God does. She sets people free.

(continued next column)

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

It's a miracle! Multiple miracles! The waters of holy baptism have healed us. The body and blood of Jesus in holy communion have made us clean. We have died with Christ and been raised with him. For all this we have returned to offer thanks. From this place we are sent on our way rejoicing to share the good news.



READINGS

2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c
Psalm 111
2 Timothy 2:8-15
Luke 17:11-19

ADULT FORUM

OCTOBER 9 "Library and Music Library Open House"

We have two richly stocked libraries in our church. Today you are invited to visit the book library (on the sanctuary level) to take a closer look at some great reading for all ages. You might be surprised at some of the books we have! The music library on third floor is a warmly decorated room that houses all the amazing music that enhances our worship through the leadership of our choirs: children's, youth, adult, and handbell. Come explore from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

OCTOBER 16 "Building Dedication"

As a congregation, we proclaim, "We welcome, with no exception, all people to the full life of this community of faith." Today we celebrate that our building now better reflects our welcome statement. Thanks to the congregation's generous support of the Opening Doors campaign, the east entrance has been renovated to improve our building's accessibility, hospitality, and safety. Join us between services to meet a few of the skilled people who helped us with designing and constructing the project, and celebrate with us the completion of the renovation.

WORSHIP LEADERS TRAINING SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16, 12:1-30 P.M.

If you would like to serve as a leader in worship, this training is for you. From 12-1:30 p.m. on Sunday, October 16, we'll offer training for ushers, crucifers, assisting ministers, communion servers, altar guild, and coffee servers. Veterans and novices are welcome! Sign up in the Community Room by October 9.

(continued from previous column) Whether or not you're attending this weekend's conference, we hope that you'll join in these ongoing conversations that we're having together—whether it's joining one of the racial justice reading groups, attending an upcoming forum, striking up a conversation with a fellow worship attendee over coffee or inviting them to a one-on-one conversation. This is a critical time, and much is at stake. I'm thankful to be a part of a faith community that takes conversations like these seriously and listens and responds to God's call, even when it means sacrifice and a relinquishment of power and control. It is a good time to be here with you.

—Meghan Olsen Biebighauser, Parish Organizer

PARISH INFORMATION

MINNESOTA MEAL SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15, 5:30 P.M.

Each year we come together to feast and share a meal of locally grown food at the Minnesota Meal. Plan to attend and bring your favorite dish to share on Saturday, October 15, at 5:30 p.m. in the Community Room. We will hear a presentation by Howasta Means, chef at the Minneapolis American Indian Center. Confirmands and their sponsors are encouraged to attend together.

WORSHIP LEADERS TRAINING SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16, 12-1:30 P.M.

Grace Hospice has been developed through a partnership with Augustana Care and Mount Olivet Careview Home to provide service to those in physical, emotional, or spiritual need. Volunteers are needed to provide companionship to their patients, to help with mailings or filing, and to help support patients' families following the deaths of their loved ones. If interested contact Sarah Matthews at 651-485-2768 or SMMatthews@gracehospicecaring.org.

JOHNSON SYMPOSIUM NOVEMBER 4-5, 2016

Register now for the seventh annual Johnson Symposium on Faith & Society as we welcome Rev. Dr. Wil Gafney, Associate Professor of Hebrew Bible at Brite Divinity School in Fort Worth, Texas, on Friday, November 4, 7:00 p.m., and Saturday, November 5, 8:30 a.m. Register online or use the registration form on the brochure.

KINSHIP DINNERS FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28 & 29

Twice a year the Nurturing Relations Committee organizes kinship meals, which allow members to dine together and learn about each other in the warmth of someone's home. We choose dates around the time that we receive new members so that we can invite these newest branches of God's living tree to a gathering soon after their arrival. The meals are for anyone interested in a more intimate gathering of people from church. Watch for sign-up sheets in the Community Room soon.

BUILDING DEDICATION SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16, 10:00 A.M.

Thanks to the congregation's generous support of the Opening Doors campaign, the east entrance has been renovated to improve our building's accessibility, hospitality, and safety. Join us between services to meet a few of the skilled people who helped us with designing and constructing the project, and celebrate with us the completion of the renovation.

Office phone: 612-729-8355
Jay Carlson and Ingrid Rasmussen, Pastors

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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Community Church, c/o Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 2730 E. 31 St. Paul, MN 55406.

PARISH EVENTS October 9-15, 2016

Sunday	8:45 am	Worship Service with Holy Communion
	9:30 am	Confirmation
	9:45 am	Sunday School
	10:00 am	Adult Forum
	11:00 am	Worship Service with Holy Communion
	12:00 pm	Gloria Ringers Rehearse
	2:00 pm	Swahili Service
Monday	7:00 pm	Financial Stewardship Meeting
Tuesday	11:00 am	Worship Readings Discussion
	6:30 pm	Writers' Circle
Wednesday	3:30-5:30 pm	Fare for All
	6:00 pm	Youth Choirs
	7:30 pm	Adult Choir
Thursday	6:00 pm	New Member Class
Saturday	5:30 pm	Minnesota Meal

Special Gift from the estate of Marion Englund

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS OCTOBER 9, 2016

8:45 AM		11:00 AM	
Maggie Weiss, Peter Weiss	Acolytes	Soren Kung, Linden Kung	
Josh Becker	Crucifer	Anna Brelje	
Nicki Hines	Assisting Minister	Margaret Kelly	
Pam Blomgren, Andrea Hansen	Communion	Kari/Tom Kleven	
Carol/David Berg	Altar Guild	Carol Lane, Josef Fortier	
Bob Peschiutta, Julie/Tom Cahoy	Ushers	George Madich, Kathy Hollander, Rod Johnson	
Linda/Gerry Berglin	Coffee Servers	Helen/Bob Norheim	
Donna Heyer, Gerry Berglin	Counters	Wayne Vetter, Scott Cole	
	Closer	John Sulzbach	

	October 2	Year to date
Financial Report		
Budget requirement	14,432.69	577,307.69
Budget Receipts	10,263.61	535,516.49
Opening Doors	207.87	378,093.41