

Don Saliers and Emily Saliers, father and daughter, spoke to *Rolling Stone* about why it's important for the church to evolve in its teachings, why music activism is essential, and the reason it's imperative that we don't get used to the hateful words being spoken in the public square.

CAN YOU TELL ME WHY YOU THINK MUSIC IS IMPORTANT IN THIS CONTEXT, AS A FORM OF ACTIVISM?

Don: Any significant social movement in the history of human kind...relies on music, it relies on song. The civil-rights movement: *Keep Your Eyes on the Prize, We Shall Overcome.* South Africa and the anti-apartheid movement. Any deep social movement has music at its heart because music is a unifier and a motivator.

Emily: I think music stirs our spirits and makes us feel good. For Indigo Girls concerts, I know there's a lot of singing going on. And I know when people get together in a public forum and sing, it's cathartic. It's mysterious, really, but there's no doubt about it. In the history, when there are human trials, the presence of music has to be there to galvanize people.

Don: One subset of that point is that people have to sing about their suffering. If you think about slave songs and how it influenced the civil-rights movement, wherever it happened, hearing and being honest about the suffering and that's what we're talking about here, a form of social suffering. I'm interested in recovering that inside the church.

- *Rolling Stone* magazine, May 2016



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 Minneapolis, MN 55406
 612-729-8358 • htcmpls.org



THE **Johnson Symposium**
 ON FAITH & SOCIETY

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

Featuring

Don & Emily Saliers
 November 10 & 11, 2017



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
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Friday Evening

- 5:45** **Doors Open**
- 6:15-7:00** **Opening Music by
The Poetic Diaspora**
- 7:00-9:00** **Evening Performance with
Don Saliers and Emily Saliers**

Saturday Morning

- 8:00** **Doors Open**
- 8:30-10:15** **“Faith, Activism, and Justice:
Reflections on Music as the
Heart of Social Movements,”
Part One, with Don Saliers
and Emily Saliers**
- 10:15-10:45** **Break**
- 10:45-12:00** **“Faith, Activism, and Justice:
Reflections on Music as the
Heart of Social Movements,”
Part Two, with Don Saliers
and Emily Saliers**

Dr. Don E. Saliers is currently the Theologian-in-Residence after retiring in 2007 as the William R. Cannon Distinguished Professor of Theology and Worship at Candler School of Theology at Emory University. In addition to publishing widely in the fields of theology, liturgy, and music, Don is a composer of liturgical music and is an accomplished keyboard player with both a classical and jazz background.

Emily Saliers is best known as part of the Grammy Award-winning Indigo Girls, celebrated for their tireless work for social justice.

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
2016 – The Rev. Dr. Wil Gafney

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church • 2017 Johnson Symposium registration
Don & Emily Saliers • Friday, Nov. 10 at 6:15 p.m. & Saturday, Nov. 11 at 8:30 a.m.

Registration Information: \$50 per person includes Friday performance and Saturday sessions.

You may register and pay online at htlcmpls.org/symposium or call the church office (612-729-8358). Scholarships are available. Call the church office for more information.

Please note: We expect tickets to sell quickly this year. No refunds will be available for unused tickets.