



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: 9:55 am • Ingrid Rasmussen and Angela Khabeb, Pastors

LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING

February is African American History Month and I am especially mindful of a song from our worship book, *Lift Every Voice and Sing*. *Lift Every Voice and Sing* is one of my favorite hymns. I remember learning it in the second grade at Mount View Elementary School in Omaha, Nebraska. Then, back in the late 1970s, *Lift Every Voice and Sing* was introduced to me as the “Negro National Anthem.” Even as a child, I realized that the words of this song spoke to generational scars that ran deep in the African American community. In the poetry of its verses, I witness our God who is very present in the joys as well as the sorrows of God’s people. In this song, I also encounter our God who is aware of spiritual, physical, and generational hurts. Embedded in these words is a God who is embodied in and with us through our shouts of celebrating and our cries for justice. I could go on describing this anthem at length. But its eloquence really does stand alone.

Lift Every Voice and Sing by James Weldon Johnson (1871-1938)

1. *Lift every voice and sing till earth and heaven ring, ring with the harmonies of liberty.*

Let our rejoicing rise high as the listening skies, let it resound loud as the rolling sea.

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us; sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us; facing the rising sun of our new day begun, let us march on till victory is won.

2. *Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod, felt in the days when hope unborn had died.*

Yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet come to the place for which our parents sighed?

We have come over a way that with tears have been watered; we have come treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered, out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

3. *God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;*

Thou who hast by thy might led us into the light, keep us forever in the path we pray.

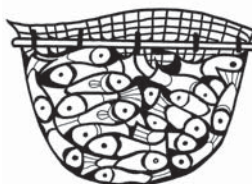
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God where we met thee; lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee; shadowed beneath thy hand, may we forever stand, true to our God, true to our native land.

Most of us have heard this song many times before. In the Lutheran Book of Worship, this hymn is listed under “celebration and jubilation.” In the African American Lutheran Hymnal, *This Far by Faith*, it is listed under “praise and thanksgiving.” In the African American Hymnal of the Catholic Church, *Lead Me Guide Me*, it is listed under the heading “social concern.” It is obvious to me that this anthem is all three.

When we look at the message beyond the words, we are able to see the forgotten ones crying out for freedom and liberty. We can see a people who are confident that, through their raised voices, heaven will hear and echo the freedom cry of God’s people. We can see people that have been mistreated and oppressed, but find a reason to rejoice and petition our God for justice. These children of God hold tightly to the hope that sustains them as they look toward a brighter day for future generations.

We also encounter people who are unafraid to cry out to God. We see weary, tearful people who are willing to defy a bleak past by looking towards a brighter future. We see those who desire spiritual fulfillment and seek God’s guidance as they walk life’s paths. We see protected people who find shelter from the scorching heat of oppression and injustice under the mighty, nurturing hand of God. We see faithful people that are committed to God and to their community. We see members who are a part of the Body of Christ. And if we look very closely we may even see our own reflection. (cont.)

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY



READINGS
Isaiah 6:1-13
Psalm 138
1 Corinthians 15:1-11
Luke 5:1-11

ADULT FORUM
10:00 am

FEBRUARY 10 “Sexuality and Values” David Weiss

Sexuality is a fundamental feature of human life—shaped by values that may be social, cultural, religious, familial, and experiential. While these values seem “secure,” sometimes they shift ... seismically. So how do we find our balance again, on the far side—or in the midst—of these seismic shifts? We’ll consider sex—when the earth moves: values, ethics, and seeking sex ... that is just plain good. David Weiss is a public theologian. His writings include *When God Was a Little Girl* (children’s book); *Sparks Around the Fire* (Lenten chancel dramas); *Hearts Unbound* (Reader’s Theater on LGBTQ welcome); *To the Tune of a Welcoming God* (essays on LGBTQ welcome); and a CD of the same name featuring hymn texts. He is currently writing *The Gospel in Transition, a year of weekly reflections on facing climate change, finding hope, and the alchemy of Christian community*.

FEBRUARY 17 Sexuality and Spirituality David Weiss

Okay, if sex can be just plain good, can it be even more than that? How are sexuality and spirituality related? (Hint: it’s complicated!) But what changes when we talk about sex...with God in the room? We’ll consider embodiment—as a matter of faith: sexuality and the experience of the sacred.

10TH ANNUAL PANCAKE BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER

Sunday, February 10, 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Tickets are priced based on a sliding scale (\$1-20) and may be purchased at the door. Enjoy breakfast cooked and served by Holy Trinity youth to raise funds for summer trips to Puerto Rico and Wilderness Canoe Base!

Pancake Breakfast Nutrition Information:

- TWO 4-inch pancakes = 170 calories
- TWO tablespoons pure maple syrup = 104 calories
- TWO pork sausage links = 133 calories
- ONE small glass of orange juice = 112 calories
- Bottomless cup of coffee = 0 calories

TOTAL PANCAKE BREAKFAST CALORIES = 519

*ONE Dunkin’ Donuts chocolate chip muffin = 550 calories

This hymn, *Lift Every Voice and Sing*, has a powerful and timeless, universal message that speaks to the realities of marginalized people both historically and at present. The words live on in our joys and sorrows and this song reminds us that it is possible to rejoice even with a broken heart. This song speaks to the embodiment of not only suffering and pain, but also hope and freedom. I pray that the words of this song also touch you deeply and that God speaks to you through God’s amazing promise of everlasting presence.

—Angela Khabeb, Pastor

PARISH INFORMATION

FAMILY RETREAT FEBRUARY 15-17 AT A.R.C. RETREAT CENTER

Join other families for a weekend of rest and renewal and family-friendly fun with church members of all ages at the ARC Retreat Center near Osceola, Wisconsin, from Friday, February 15-Sunday, February 17. Meals, activities, and accommodations are included for the retreat fee of \$100/adult and \$50/child (3-16 years old). Children 2 and younger are free. Sign up in the Community Room. Registration ends Sunday, February 10, with payments due that day. Make checks payable to Holy Trinity Lutheran Church.

FARE FOR ALL WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 3:30 – 5:30 P.M.

The HOT BUY for February is a 3-lb. package of Boneless/Skinless Chicken Breasts for \$5.00! (Limit 2 packages.) The Mega Meat, Mini Meat, and Produce Packs and free recipes will also be available. Fare For All is community supported, affordable, and available to everyone. Cash, credit, debit and EBT cards are accepted.

GATHER AT THE RIVER, FEBRUARY 12, 6:30-8:00 P.M.

The Ecumenical Water Initiative invites you to “Gather at the River” of the font for an evening of worship and storytelling about our water systems, with a focus on drinking water. Join us at Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church, 2315 Chicago Ave., Minneapolis, as we wrestle with questions of stewardship and justice for water in our communities.

ST. THOMAS BASKETBALL GAME--LET’S CHEER ON KAIA PORTER

Our very own Kaia Porter is on the St. Thomas University Women’s Basketball Team, so the 20s, 30s, 40s group and Laura Bolstad are hosting an all ages outing to watch the Tommies play the Bennies on Wednesday, February 13, at 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome! Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$4 for students (age 5 and under free). The game is in Schoenecker Arena in St. Thomas’ Anderson Athletic Complex. RSVP in the Community Room or on Facebook, and indicate if you will be meeting at church at 6:30 p.m. to carpool or heading straight there.

LIBRARY NOTES

Some folks are asking how to borrow a church library book. Do it the old fashioned way. Find the card in the pocket in the back cover of the book, write your name on the card, leave the card in the white holder on the counter in the library or on the bistro table next to the Community Room library cart. When you are finished with the book, return it to either the bistro table basket or the shelf just inside the library. Wonder if we have a certain book in the library? Check on the computer database in the library—instructions posted on wall. Questions? Ask Roberta Shaw.

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PARISH EVENTS February 10-16, 2019

Sunday	8 am-1 pm	Pancake Breakfast
	8:45 am	Worship Service with Holy Communion
	9:55 am	Sunday School
	10:00 am	Adult Forum
	11:00 am	Worship Service with Holy Communion
	12:15 pm	Worship/Fine Arts
	12:15 pm	Gloria Ringers Rehearsal
Monday	2:00 pm	Swahili Service
	6:00 pm	Second Sunday Suppers/Richfield Houlihan’s
	9 am-12 pm	AARP Tax Aide
Tuesday	7:00 pm	Financial Stewardship
	11:00 am	Worship Readings Discussion
Wednesday	1:00 pm	Doctrine of Discovery Group
	1:00 pm	Writers’ Circle
	9 am-12 pm	AARP Tax Aide
	3:30-5:30 pm	Fare For All
	4:00 pm	Palestine/Israel Group
Friday-Sunday	5:30 pm	Choir Supper
	5:30-7:30 pm	Library Open
	6:00 pm	Children’s Choir
	6:45 pm	Cantate!
	7:30 pm	Adult Choir
		Family Retreat

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS FEBRUARY 10, 2019

8:45 AM		11:00 AM	
Cathy Alpizar		Assisting Minister Sara Jensen	
Elena Alpizar, Matthew Arifin	Acolytes	Peter Weiss, Asha Olson	
Jeff Weiss		Crucifer	Paul Chindvall
Rick Liedholm, Nicki Hines	Communion	Sue Roberts, Kirk Jensen	
Bev Peschlutta, Nancy Madich		Altar Guild	Stella Townsend, Carol Lane
Bob Peschlutta, Marcea Mariani, DeWayne Townsend		Ushers	Josh Combs, Mike Mann needed
Mary and Chris Engen		Coffee Servers	June Prange, Carolyn Schurr
Annie Hines, Bob Peschlutta	Counters	Lee Kampinen, John Sulzbach	
		Closer	Vicki Mann

	February 3	Year to date
Financial Report		
Budget Requirement	15,253.85	76,269.23
Budget receipts	13,293.51	98,653.47
Opening Doors	55.37	2,104.82
CTUL	20.00	20.00
World Hunger	5.00	122.00