



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 Khabebe, Pastors

MY TAKE: WE'RE ON THE MOVE

Last May, I stumbled upon a Facebook post that announced Viviane Thomas-Breitfeld had been elected bishop of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin. I was stunned; I had no idea her name was even on the ballot. I read the post again, just to be sure. A hallelujah reverberated in my soul.

I grabbed the phone to call then-Pastor Viviane to congratulate her and shower her with well-deserved praise. But, at the sound of her voice, all I could do was cry. For several moments I wept openly, unable to speak. My tears spoke for me. She knew what they meant: I was both overjoyed for her success and weary with exhaustion that it had taken this long for a woman of African descent to be elected a bishop. Eventually I was able to formulate a few sentences to convey my joy.

After I hung up, I jumped back on Facebook to share this historic news as far and wide as possible. That's when I learned Patricia A. Davenport, also of African descent, was elected bishop of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod. I could barely breathe. Immediately, I took ownership of both of their accomplishments—hallelujah indeed. I was Elizabeth and they were Mary (in Luke 1). After I learned what God had birthed in them, my own spirit, deep inside me, leaped in wonder.

I was able to attend Bishop Viviane's installation. Dozens of clergywomen of color were in attendance, and pastors were invited to vest and process. More than 200 clergy waited in the halls for the processional to begin. When we started to move, a couple of clergywomen of color began to sing the chorus of the old McFadden & Whitehead song "Ain't No Stoppin' Us Now." Then, Rhonda Pruitt, a pastor of Our Saviour Lutheran Church, Arlington Heights, Ill., continued on to the verse.

The lyrics from that 1970s rhythm and blues hit remained pointedly relevant. What began as a whimsical tune quickly transformed into a cry for justice. Pastor Rhonda began to sing: *There's been so many things that's held us down. But now it looks like things are finally comin' around. I know we've got a long, long way to go. And where we'll end up, I don't know.* Many joined in right away. Adding our voices to hers, we continued: *But we won't let nothin' hold us back. We're putting ourselves together. We're polishing up our act. If you felt we've been held down before, I know you'll refuse to be held down anymore.*

The energy in that space told us we weren't alone—we were surrounded by the great cloud of witnesses. We were wombed together in that crowded space, united in solidarity and celebration. God, as midwife, birthed in us something ancient yet altogether new. I was ancestor and infant.

The spirit from that processional leads me to now ask where we go from here. Where is God calling the ELCA?

Perhaps this is a Sankofa moment for our church. "Sankofa" is a word in the Akan language, spoken primarily in Ghana, meaning "to go back and get it." It's often symbolized as a bird looking back while its feet are facing forward. The heartbeat of the Sankofa concept is that *it's not taboo to fetch what is at risk of being left behind.*

At the 1993 Churchwide Assembly, our church adopted the social statement "Freed in Christ: Race, Ethnicity, and Culture." In the statement, the ELCA helped shed light on the subtle and overt nature of racism and acknowledged some of the ways the church can dismiss people who live on the margins of society.

"This church has not moved much beyond an 'assimilation' approach to culture, where the assimilated are those who adopt the values and behavior of the dominant culture," the statement reads. (cont.)

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY



READINGS

Jeremiah 17:5-10

Psalm 1

1 Corinthians 15:12-20

Luke 6:17-26

ADULT FORUM

10:00 am – in the Library

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.

FEBRUARY 24 Doctrine of Discovery Working Group

The Task Force has been meeting since the summer of 2018 and is working in the areas of education and advocacy. The adult forum will be the first opportunity for members of the congregation to learn what the Task Force has been doing and its plans for the future. The Doctrine and its effects on Indigenous people, historically and to the present day, will be the subject of the Johnson Symposium in November 2019. The Task Force has developed and is advocating for a proposal currently being discussed in the legislature, a proposal which could generate significant amounts of funding for Native programs in Minnesota.

"Freed in Christ" also names the sin of racism and commits the ELCA to confronting racism in our church and beyond. Racism "infects and affects everyone. It deforms relationships. ...It undermines the promise of community..." the statement reads. "When we confront racism and move toward fairness and justice in society, all of us benefit."

It's time to rekindle the fire that inspired this social statement decades ago—the statement that declares: "We expect our leadership to name the sin of racism ... we must take responsibility for our participation, acknowledge our complicity, repent of our sin, and pray God will bring us to reconciliation. ...Let us know this reconciliation in our lives!"

To achieve lasting transformation, the ELCA must continue to wrest our congregations from the grip of racism and Eurocentricity. The bishop elections of 2018 have set us on a path toward greater understanding, greater equity, and greater freedom. It is my hope that we will continue to honor our Reformation heritage by acting as an agent of change in an unjust world. I am hopeful for the future of the ELCA.

I know we've got a long, long way to go. And where we'll end up, I don't know. But I trust that God won't let nothing hold us back.

—Pastor Angela Khabebe, from *Living Lutheran*, Feb. 4, 2019

PARISH INFORMATION

MOUNT OLIVET PRESENTS WILL STEGER, SUNDAY, FEB. 24

All are invited to a dinner event with Will Steger, a world-renowned explorer from Minnesota, known for his numerous polar expeditions, deep understanding of the environment, and his efforts to raise international awareness of environmental threats. Will became the National Geographic Society's first Explorer-in-Residence in 1996, has authored four books, received several honorary doctorate degrees, and found two non-profits—the *Will Steger Wilderness Center* in Ely, MN, and *Climate Generation: A Will Steger Legacy* dedicated to engaging educators, youth, and communities in solutions to address climate change. A chili dinner (Will Steger's favorite menu) will be served. Cost of the dinner event is \$15. Register by Feb. 24 at mtolivet.org or 612.926.7651.

SPECIAL GUEST MARK BURROWS IN WORSHIP FEB. 24

"Mr. Mark," as he is known to the many children in his home congregation in Texas, is a nationally recognized composer and children's minister who believes that "children are not the future of the church, they are the *right now* of the church." He is passionate about churches being intergenerational in their approach to children's and youth ministry. Mark will be our guest preacher in worship and deliver the gospel in his engaging and child-friendly style.

CTUL PANCAKE BRUNCH FUNDRAISER SATURDAY, MARCH 2

Join us at Holy Trinity on Saturday, March 2, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. to eat pancakes for a great cause! At CTUL, low-wage workers are organizing across boundaries of race, nationality and industry to make their voices heard and to fight for fair pay and dignity in their workplaces. Join us for pancakes, coffee, orange juice, sausage links, egg bakes, and more! \$5-15 suggested donation. Register at ctul.net/pancake; for more information, contact Unny (unny@ctul.net or 612-293-6876). Can't make it? Visit ctul.net/donate to make a contribution.

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PARISH EVENTS February 17-23, 2019

Sunday	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	Gloria Ringers Rehearsal
Monday	2:00 pm	Swahili Service
	9 am-12 pm	AARP Tax Aide
Tuesday	6:00 pm	Executive Committee
	7:00 pm	Church Council
Wednesday	11:00 am	Worship Readings Discussion
	1:00 pm	Doctrine of Discovery
Wednesday	9 am-12 pm	AARP Tax Aide
	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

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS FEBRUARY 17, 2019

8:45 AM		11:00 AM	
Karen Batdorf Assisting Minister			
Emma Murray, Wilson Murray	Acolytes	Grayson Wieczorek, Tevy Nou	
needed	Crucifer	Wayne Vetter	
David Broberg, DeWayne Townsend	Communion	Sharon Englund, Zoe Martinez	
Dianne Mascher, Nancy Madich	Altar Guild	Libby and Keith Olstad	
Bob Peschiutta, Julie and Tom Cahoy	Ushers	Kathy Ohler, Soren Kung	
Martha and Harry Mueller	Coffee Servers	Allison Johnson Heist, Arlene Helvig	
Pam Blomgren, Julie Cahoy	Counters	Pam Kildahl, Deb Helmel	
	Closer	Cliff Brown	

Financial Report	February 10	Year to date
Budget Requirement	15,253.85	91,523.08
Budget receipts	18,432.13	118,085.60
Opening Doors	52.87	2,157.69
Sanctuary Support	100.00	100.00
World Hunger	1,782.00	1,904.00