



On 31st Street between Minnehaha and 28th Avenues Minneapolis, MN 55406 • 612-729-8358 • office@htlcmpls.org • www.htlcmpls.org
WORSHIP SERVICES: 8:45 and 11:00 a.m. • SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:55 a.m. • Ingrid Rasmussen and Angela Khabeb, Pastors

THE RISK OF BIRTH

—Rachel Held Evans, a best-selling author who challenged conservative Christianity and gave voice to a generation of wandering evangelicals wrestling with their faith, died on Saturday at a hospital in Nashville. She was 37. The following is from a blog she wrote on January 13, 2017.

My son entered the world to the sound of laughter.
February, 2016.

When you've been married for thirteen years, you know exactly what kind of humor your partner will appreciate when she's actively pushing a baby out of her body, and Dan, sensing it would make me feel confident and safe, had the entire delivery room in stitches that night.

I don't remember much of what he said, but I remember my OB laughed so hard I worried she'd drop the scissors as she passed them to Dan to cut the cord, and I remember being the happiest I've ever been when that little boy's body was placed on my chest, all startled and slimy and mine.

A few days after my son's birth, Donald Trump won the New Hampshire primary. They said he'd never win the nomination, so I didn't worry too much. Our lives were utterly consumed with swaddling, nursing, burping, and maintaining the journal we meticulously updated with details of our baby's diaper contents to report to the pediatrician because we were completely, unabashedly those parents.

The days and nights that followed were, as everyone always says, a blur. One can never prepare for the physical and emotional demands of caring for a newborn for the first time, and I was lucky to have a relatively smooth delivery and postpartum experience. The great thing about motherhood is that it demands the best of you, and then some. It demands more from you than you ever knew you had, and it's empowering to rise to that occasion, to learn something new about yourself.

Eventually, days became days again, and nights, for the most part, nights. The more mobile our little guy gets, the more we see of his personality—athletic, intrepid, clever, and curious, with a sophisticated sense of humor and a penchant for bluegrass. I knew I would love this little boy, of course, but I had no idea I would like him this much.

Somewhere between our baby's first laugh and his first clumsy crawl, Trump won the nomination. Just a few days before our baby's first steps, Trump won the presidency...

We find ourselves in these strange juxtapositions from time to time, between the stories of our lives and the stories of the world around us. Sometimes they align with a sort of poetic symmetry—the gentle rain at the funeral on September 11, the divorce papers arriving the day you get the cancer diagnosis. Other times, the contrast is jolting—the baby cooing in your arms as news of another mass shooting scrolls across the TV, the wedding on Inauguration Day. For me, the dissonance of this strange year is compounded by the fact that motherhood turned my bleeding heart into a hemorrhage. It's as though I've become porous, my skin absorbing the pain of others, particularly other mamas and babies. Every night, as I nurse my boy in that cozy armchair in his nursery, I think of the Syrian mama nursing her baby in a raft adrift in the Mediterranean Sea. (cont.)

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



READINGS
Acts 9:36-43
Psalm 23
Revelation 7:9-17
John 10:22-30

ADULT FORUM
10:00 am—in the Library

MAY 12 Racial Justice Committee
A guest from CAIR-MN offers insight into concerns of the Muslim community in the Twin Cities. Many challenges face a thriving community here, so bring questions and observations to Sunday's dialogue.

MAY 19 "A Pastor, Memories, and #MeToo"
Judie Mattison
Judie is a retired pastor who reflects on her adult struggle as she remembered the trauma of childhood abuse and repressed memories in her recently published book, *I Will Not Break*. Her forum will explore topics such as memories, prevention, family secrets, trauma, forgiveness, the #metoo movement, and healing.

I think of the shell-shocked boy from Aleppo. I think of how every Latino kid taunted by classmates, every soldier sent to war, every autistic kid who will lose his therapy when ACA is repealed, every black man shot by police is somebody else's baby boy, somebody else's most important person in the world. I still, almost every day, think of Sandy Hook.

"Compassion is the sometimes fatal capacity for feeling what it is like to live inside somebody else's skin," writes Frederick Buechner. "It's the knowledge that there can never really be any peace and joy for me until there is peace and joy finally for you too."

Motherhood invited me into other people's skin in a way I've never experienced before. So my joy is big and real and consuming, but also incomplete. I am overwhelmed by the conviction that every mother should be able to feed her baby like this, in safety and contentedness, and I am haunted by the reality that this is still far from the case...

But if the incarnation has anything to say about it, we don't get to wait around for ideal circumstances to begin creating, birthing, nurturing, planting, protesting, and working together to heal the world.

So my prayer for you today, and in the days, weeks, and months ahead, is this: No matter what it means to you, take the risk of birth. Don't be afraid.

Finish the book. Pursue the relationship. Begin the ministry. Push the boundaries. Join the march. Write the screenplay. Do the dishes. Plant the onions. Carry the child. Roll around on the floor with your giggling toddler as if the world was even fractionally worthy of his presence.

I'm so glad I did.

PARISH INFORMATION

OUR WHOLE LIVES SEXUALITY CURRICULUM TRAINING JUNE 28-30

We'd like to invite any who are interested in becoming a trainer for a group of children or youth to attend this upcoming training. If you would like to attend, speak with a pastor or Ann Schrooten very soon. Cost for the weekend training is \$1-250 (sliding scale to Holy Trinity members). For more information about the Our Whole Lives curriculum, visit www.uua.org/re/owl.

VICKI MANN'S RETIREMENT PARTY SUNDAY, MAY 19

Plan to attend Vicki Mann's retirement party Sunday, May 19, at noon. There will be food, laughter, tears, and gratitude. Please sign up in the Community Room.

LVC'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION MONDAY, MAY 20

LVC's 40th Anniversary Kick-Off Celebration (Brews for Justice 2019) will be Monday, May 20, 6:00 p.m. at Sisyphus Brewing (712 Ontario Ave. W, Minneapolis). This event is free; RSVP by Wednesday, May 15, to action.lutheranvolunteercorps.org/bfj_tc_2019.

MEALS ON WHEELS DELIVERY MAY 28-31

Pick up meals at Nokomis Square (35th Ave. S. & 50th St.). Drivers should arrive at 11:15 a.m.; delivery takes one hour. Questions? Contact Mary Engen. Sign up in the Community Room.

THE BIRDS ARE COMING BACK!

To check them out, meet Keith Olstad on Wednesday, May 15, at 7:30 a.m., in the parking lot at the Old Cedar Avenue Bridge in the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. Call Keith for directions, if you need help locating binoculars or field guides, or if you have concerns about the weather.

UPDATE FROM PARISH ORGANIZER VISIONING TEAM

As you may have heard, Holy Trinity is doing an assessment of the Parish Organizer position to discern how to proceed going forward. It is important that we hear your ideas about how to support our congregation's work for social justice! Please watch your email inbox this week for a quick and easy survey asking Holy Trinity members for initial feedback about the PO position. There will be a paper version available in the Community Room for those who prefer that. In addition, please come to one of three listening sessions we will hold (May 19 and June 9 from 10-11 a.m., and May 28 from 7-8 p.m.), where you can give your ideas in more detail. Thank you.

U.S. Postage Paid
Periodical

THE COMMUNITY CHURCH (USPS 777-060)
Published weekly by Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 2730 E 31 St, Mpls MN 55406. Periodicals postage paid at St. Paul, Minnesota POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Community Church, c/o Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 2730 E. 31 Street, Mpls., MN 55406.

PARISH EVENTS May 12-18, 2019

Sunday	8:30 am-12:30 pm	Photo Display in the Bartsch Room
	8:45 am	Worship Service with Holy Communion
	9:30 am	Confirmation
	9:55 am	Sunday School
	10:00 am	Adult Forum
	11:00 am	Worship Service with Holy Communion
Monday	2:00 pm	Swahili Service
	6:00 pm	Second Sunday Suppers at Houlihan's
	6:00 pm	Worship/Fine Arts
Tuesday	7:00 pm	Financial Stewardship
	11:00 am	Worship Readings Discussion
Wednesday	12:30 pm	Writers' Circle
	6:30 pm	Youth Committee
	4:00 pm	Worship Furnishings Team
	5:30 pm	Choir Supper
	6:00 pm	Anti-Semitism Group
	6:00 pm	Children's Choir
	6:45 pm	Cantate!
	7:30 pm	Adult Choir

World Hunger by David Rediger, Myrna/Dodd Lamberton, and in memory of loved ones by Paul Krumrei

Sanctuary Support by David Rediger, Kristi Holmquist

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS MAY 12, 2019

8:45 AM		11:00 AM	
Paul Ramsour	Assisting Minister	Linda Jury	
Will Hansen, Matthew Arifin	Acolytes	Grayson Wieczorek, Tevy Nou	
Bob Hulteen	Crucifer	Jeff Olsen Biebighauser	
Sean Gosiewski, Katy Benson	Communion	David Krig, Bryan Kuzel	
Ginny Jordan, Dianne Mascher	Altar Guild	Lisa and Bruce Martens	
Bob Peschiutta	Ushers	Kathy Ohler, Joshua Combs	
Sally and David Kohlstedt		Alan Libra, Soren Kung	
Mary and Chris Engen	Coffee Servers	Carol Lane, Josef Fortier	
Gerry Berglin, Chuck Jordan	Counters	Scott Cole, John Sulzbach	
	Closer	Cliff Brown	

Financial Report	May 5	Year to date
Budget Requirement	15,253.85	274,569.23
Budget Receipts	13,671.16	310,383.29
Opening Doors	40,005.37	49,242.98
Sanctuary Support	215.00	1,110.00
World Hunger	120.00	2,943.00