



HOLY TRINITY

LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE COMMUNITY CHURCH

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. • EDUCATION: 10:00 a.m. • Ingrid Rasmussen and Angela Khabeb, Pastors

SERMON FROM SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

In reflecting on this part of Luke's gospel, Barbara Brown Taylor says that "[Jesus] would not have made a good [local church pastor]. So much of the job depends on making it easy for people to come to church and rewarding for them to stay. Talk to any of the church growth experts and they will tell you how important it is to create a safe, caring environment where people will believe their concerns will be heard and their needs be met. The basic idea is to find out what people are looking for and to give it to them, so that they decide to stay put instead of continuing to shop for a church down the street."

Before you head over to St. Albert the Great to hear what Father Joe has to say, first hear me out...In our current social and political climate, I think that the use of the word "hate" has the potential to get in the way of our engaging with this passage, which is why I'm grateful that Eugene Peterson, in his translation of the bible called *The Message*, translates this passage another way. *The Message* reads, "One day when large groups of people were walking along with him, Jesus turned and told them, "Anyone who comes to me but refuses to let go of father, mother, spouse, children, brothers, sisters—yes, even one's own self!—can't be my disciple...Simply put, if you're not willing to take what is dearest to you, whether plans or people, and kiss it good-bye, you can't be my disciple."

The favorite nighttime book at our house these days is called *The Little Island*. It's a sweet little children's book that I picked up in Maine earlier this summer that tells the harrowing story of an island, a fish, and a little black kitten. Each night, as I read the story that describes what happens on the little island, I am struck by these words, "Then one day all the lobsters crawled in from the sea and hid under the rocks and ledges of the Island to shed their shells and let their new ones grow... strong in hiding places in the dark."

Shedding our shells, letting go, hating that which gets in the way of abundant life for all—take your pick. Being a follower of Jesus means letting that which keeps us separated from God and from one another to fall away.

This fall is packed with opportunities to gather together and to "shed our shells," so to speak. A storytelling workshop with Mark Yaconelli in October will help us to shed the shell of isolation so that vulnerability and relationship might grow. The symposium this year will allow the #fakenews of American history to fall away so we can hear indigenous historians and Native leaders speaking truth. Our youth are going to lead us in a renewed conversation about gender and sexuality, in order that we might continue to let go of language and practices that exclude LGBTQIA+ people and live into a renewed commitment to full inclusion. Holy Trinity, we are going to be shedding our shells all over the place; be careful where you step.

The truth is that all of this letting go can be daunting—for pastors, too. I wondered this week, when all these defenses have fallen away, what on earth are we left with? We are left with everything we need: God's certain promises; our undeniable giftedness; the Spirit's fiery presence in our lives. When all of our defenses have fallen away, we are left with love that is stronger than any shell that's been shed. And that's good news, not only for those of us gathered here, but for the whole world.

People of God, Jesus wasn't so much concerned about keeping people happy as he was leading them toward abundant life. Today we thank God that it's our turn to follow.

Pastor Ingrid Rasmussen
Sermon from Sunday, September 8, 2019

Volume 103, Issue 37 • September 15, 2019

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



READINGS

Exodus 32:7-14

Psalm 51:1-10

1 Timothy 1:12-17

Luke 15:1-10

ADULT FORUM

10:00 am—in the Library

SEPTEMBER 15

"Young Adults in Global Mission"

Fiona Carson

Come hear Fiona as she reflects on her year as a missionary in eSwatini as a volunteer with Young Adults in Global Mission. She will give an overview of her experience as a missionary abroad, as well as highlighting important lessons from her service.

SEPTEMBER 22

"Health Care for All Minnesota"

Anne Jones

Anne C. Jones, Vice-Chair of the Board of Health Care for All Minnesota, will speak on "Why Are Health Care Costs in the U.S. So High and What Can We Do about It?"

AAMPARO GUEST SPEAKER SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

On Sunday, September 15, after the 11:00 a.m. service, the new AMMPARO (Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation, and Opportunities) program at Holy Trinity will feature speaker attorney Alison Griffith of "The Advocates for Human Rights." Alison recently volunteered at the Southern Border and will talk about that work, as well as typical situations for unaccompanied minors here in Minnesota. Please sign up in the Community Room for the light lunch and for this opportunity to learn more.

GLOBAL CLIMATE STRIKE FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

Join in the week-long Global Climate Strike by attending the local youth-led march from the Western Sculpture Garden, 387 Marion St., in St. Paul, to the State Capitol, from 11:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m. on Friday, September 20. Meet at church to go together and help carry the Holy Trinity banner. Support the youth who are linking climate justice to the refugee crisis and insisting on concrete action.

MEALS ON WHEELS DELIVERY SEPTEMBER 23-27

Holy Trinity volunteers will deliver meals for South Minneapolis Meals on Wheels Monday-Friday, September 23-27. Volunteers pick up meals at 11:15 a.m. at Nokomis Square (50th St. and 35th Ave. S.). Meal delivery takes about one hour. Sign up in the Community Room for part or all of the week.

LAY COMMUNION MINISTRY LUNCHEON SUNDAY, SEPT. 29

A light luncheon for Lay Communion Ministers and those persons interested in becoming one will be held Sunday, September 29, following the 11:00 a.m. service. If you are interested in attending, please sign up in the Community Room by September 22.

PARISH INFORMATION

NAMING RACISM AS SIN:

CREATING BELOVED COMMUNITY IN THE KIN-DOM OF GOD

Presented by The Reverend Jia Starr-Brown and The Reverend Doctor Yolanda Denson-Byers, this free workshop is offered to staff and members of Holy Trinity on Saturday, September 28, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (lunch provided).

Because anti-racism work is a journey, there will be a small amount of pre-work asked of you prior to this workshop. Participants will be encouraged to continue the work and conversations started at this event through actions and in discussion groups after the workshop.

Please reach out to any member of the Racial Justice Working Group with questions. We are excited for this opportunity and look forward to having folks from the entire Holy Trinity community join us in this faithful and necessary journey. Sign up in the Community Room.

BREAKFAST FOR MEN OF HOLY TRINITY

Men of Holy Trinity are invited to have breakfast with men of AME at Mother of St. James on Saturday, September 21, at 8:00 a.m. Sign up in the Community Room if you plan to attend. St. James AME is located at 3600 Snelling Ave., Minneapolis.

U.S. Postage Paid
Periodical

LITURGICAL FURNISHINGS TEAM DISPLAY SEPTEMBER 15

The Liturgical Furnishing Team has a display in the Community Room of the advent wreath created by the metal sculpture artist Peter Vanni. Please stop by, read the materials, vote for your favorite hanging spot, and ask questions of team members (Jeff Burnoski, Paul Chindvall, Marilyn Miller, Mary Opila, Ingrid Rasmussen, David Sims, Stephanie Sulzbach, and Sarah Wieben) following worship services. The Church Council will vote on whether or not to approve this wreath at their meeting on September 16.

LITTER BE GONE LONGFELLOW SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5

Help with Litter Be Gone Longfellow Saturday, October 5, from 9:00-11:30 a.m. Meet at Midtown Farmers Market next to Moon Palace Books to clean up around the shopping area. In addition, clean up litter on your own block (storm drain and curbs) to protect the Mississippi and Lake Hiawatha October 3-12, 2019, and report your results at www.litterbegone.org/participate to receive a free drink coupon valid at participating restaurants, coffee shops, and breweries.

Published weekly by Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 2730 E. 31 Street, Minneapolis, MN 55406.	POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Community Church, c/o Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 2730 E. 31 Street, Minneapolis, MN 55406.
THE COMMUNITY CHURCH (USPS 777-060)	

PARISH EVENTS September 15-21, 2019

Sunday	8:45 am Worship Service with Holy Communion 9:55 am Godly Play and Trinity Village 10:00 am Adult Forum 11:00 am Worship Service with Holy Communion 12:00 pm AMMPARO Event 12:15 pm Confirmation Orientation 2:00 pm Swahili Service
Monday	10:30 am Doctrine of Discovery 6:00 pm Executive Committee
Tuesday	7:00 pm Church Council 11:00 am Worship Readings Discussion
Wednesday	6:30 pm Youth Committee 4:30 pm Liturgical Furnishings Team 5:30-7:30 pm Library Open 5:30 pm Choir Families Supper 6:00 pm Children's Choir 6:45 pm Cantate! 7:00 pm Public Voice 7:30 pm Adult Choir 6:30 pm Property Committee
Thursday	

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS SEPTEMBER 15, 2019

8:45 AM	11:00 AM
Bob Hulteen	Assisting Minister
Lisa Martens	Crucifer
Matthew Arifin, Caroline Nevergall	Acolytes
Sally Kohlstedt, Pam Blomgren	Communion
Lisa and Bruce Martens	Altar Guild
Bob Peschutta, Marcea Mariani, DeWayne Townsend	Ushers
Luann and Josiah Kibira	Coffee Servers
David Kohlstedt, Joyce Peterson	Counters
	Closer