



HOLY TRINITY

LUTHERAN CHURCH

# THE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Volume 103, Issue 42 • October 20, 2019

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

## DEAR CHURCH BY LENNY DUNCAN

*Pastor Ingrid Arneson Rasmussen and Pastor Angela Khabeb serve together at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. The following is the conversation they shared after reading Dear Church, an epistle written to the denomination in which they are both ordained, published by the Journal of Lutheran Ethics, October 1, 2019.*

**Ingrid:** This book reinforced what has become clearer to me since you and I began serving together as pastors—that is, the two of us live by two different sets of rules in the ELCA. My name is Ingrid Arneson Rasmussen. I have blonde hair and blue eyes. I have never been asked how long I've been a Lutheran.

**Angela:** My name is Angela Khabeb, and I'm asked to establish my Lutheran pedigree with such frequency that I'm surprised when it *doesn't* happen. Certainly, I'm no stranger to double standards. As an African American woman, I learned from an early age that the world treats different people differently and serving in the whitest denomination in the United States has provided me with yet another list of prejudgments to encounter.

**Ingrid:** Yes, I've witnessed what Duncan calls "a thousand cuts"—those microaggressions that, more often than not, go unchecked in Lutheran circles because they are so widely accepted by the dominant culture. You and I bring very different experiences to this book. Social location matters.

**Angela:** You can say that again. Duncan's book is an unflinchingly honest call to dismantle white supremacy in the church. While reading it, I found myself revisiting my own trauma. I remembered how I languished for nearly two years without a first call. I remember surviving death threats and even an attempt on my family's life at our first call. Duncan's writings gripped me on a deeply personal level. There were times I didn't think I would make it to the end of the book. It was kind of like the lyrics from that Roberta Flack song, "*He was strumming my pain...singing my life with his words. Killing me softly.*" I wasn't quite prepared for the experience. I'm glad I stayed the course.

**Ingrid:** Duncan makes it clear that he thinks that we're all players in the situation. We're all part of the systems that perpetuate racism. It's easy for predominantly white faith communities to stall out in conversations about race when people claim that they, themselves, aren't racists. But what Duncan helps to clarify is that white supremacy doesn't rely on active racists to function. We're all caught up; we're all complicit. And for those of us who identify as white, we need to live with the discomfort of that reality.

**Angela:** I was glad that Duncan stressed this reality. Clearly, we are all tangled together in these systematic, generational, racist structures. I have no argument there; however, I had a visceral reaction when I read that "we...have crucified black and brown bodies under the guise of creating a civil society." I am struggling to step into this "we."

**Ingrid:** Let's ask Duncan to talk more about what he means by "we." Until then, what do we do now that we've read this book? I wonder if it's time for us to reclaim an apocalyptic imagination—not the doomsday, soothsaying kind of apocalyptic theology that dominates popular culture, but the apocalyptic theology that allows us to look at this moment in history and to call out the forces—like white nationalism and toxic masculinity—that defy God. In Martin Luther's words, it's time for us to "call a thing what it is." (cont.)

## NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



### READINGS

Genesis 32:22-31

Psalm 121

2 Timothy 3:14-4:5

Luke 18:1-8

### ADULT FORUM

10:00 am

OCTOBER 20

"Welcome New Members"  
In the Community Room

The congregation is invited to come and boldly welcome new members at 10:00 a.m. in the Community Room. We'll hear from two delightful current members, who will offer reflections on what it means to be a part of this community of faith. We'll also be introduced to those choosing to join the congregation.

OCTOBER 27

Longfellow Alternative High School

Holy Trinity is once again partnering with Longfellow Alternative High School, the school for pregnant and parenting teen women located a few blocks east of the church. Come and learn about the school's mission and hear about ways this faith community can build relationships with the students, staff, and administration.

**Angela:** That's easy (or at least *easier*) for you to say. As a white woman, you are afforded *just enough* privilege to speak truth to and with power and be praised. I speak truth to and with power, and I wonder if I'll still have a job. In fact, I found myself wondering aloud in the margins of the book how many death threats Duncan has received by just mentioning reparations. I admire his bravery.

**Ingrid:** Me, too. I kept thinking that this book isn't meant to be read alone.

**Angela:** Great point! I'm not sure it's meant to be read only alone or only once. It's powerful, raw, and forthright. I'm grateful that I had a chance to read it before our congregation engages it as our Advent book study this year. Reading it first allowed me the opportunity to first look at "the beam in my own eye" so to speak, to examine my own experiences of pain and despair.

**Ingrid:** Duncan insists that "we are the ones we have been waiting for." Everyone who reads this book, whether they think of themselves as an agent of change or not, hears the call to participate in the revolutionary work that Jesus embodied. *Dear Church* invites our action in the vision that God is bringing to birth—a vision that is surprising, disruptive, loving, and true.

## PARISH INFORMATION

### HAVE YOUR PICTURE TAKEN IN THE COMMUNITY ROOM

*Sunday, October 20, 9:45-11:00 a.m.*

Bill Capman will be at Holy Trinity between services on Sunday, October 20. He will take pictures of new members for our directory. He will also take pictures of anyone wishing to update their photo in the directory. Look for Bill in or near the Community Room if you wish to have your picture taken.

### DOCTRINE OF DISCOVERY LUNCH AND FILM SUNDAY, OCT. 27

A film produced by Syd Beane and the ELCA will be shown at 12:15 p.m. in the Bartsch Room. The film documents the Native struggle for civil rights in the 1960s and 1970s and the involvement and support of the ELCA. A light lunch will be served. Sign up in the Community Room.

### PROPERTY WORK DAY SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26, 8:30 A.M.

Our property needs a little extra TLC as the weather changes. Come and help us with raking and bagging, weeding and trimming. We'll work from 8:30 a.m.-noon. Sign up in the Community Room by October 20. In case of inclement weather, the work day will be Saturday, November 2.

### KINSHIP MEALS FRIDAY & SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1 & 2

Twice per year the Nurturing Relationships Committee organizes kinship meals, to allow members to dine together and learn about each other in the casual warmth of a fellow member's home. Dates are chosen to be around the time that we receive new members so that we can invite these newest branches of God's living tree to a gathering soon after their arrival. The meals are for anyone interested in a small group gathering of people from church. Sign up in the Community Room to be a host and/or a guest.

### CONGREGATIONAL MEETING NOVEMBER 3, 12:15 P.M.

At its September meeting, the Church Council voted to call a congregational meeting for the purpose of voting on a new partnership model for Trinity Apartments that would allow for financing to complete critical renovations and improvements for the building. The congregational meeting will be Sunday, November 3, at 12:15 p.m. in the sanctuary. Please plan to join us for this important meeting.

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 October 20-26, 2019

Sunday	8:45 am	Worship Service with Holy Communion
	9:45-11:00 am	Photographer in/near the Community Room
	9:55 am	Godly Play and Trinity Village
	10:00 am	Adult Forum: Welcome New Members
	11:00 am	Worship Service with Holy Communion
	12:00 pm	Public Voice Luncheon
Monday	2:00 pm	Swahili Service
	6:00 pm	Executive Committee
	7:00 pm	Church Council
Tuesday	11:00 am	Worship Readings Discussion
	6:00 pm	Racial Justice
Wednesday	5:30-7:30 pm	Library Open
	5:30 pm	Choir Families Supper
	6:00 pm	Children's Choir
	6:45 pm	Cantate!
	7:30 pm	Adult Choir
	7:30 pm	Gloria Ringers Rehearsal
Friday		Adult Retreat at St. John's
Saturday	10:00 am	Youth Cookie Baking Party
	6:00 pm	Confirmand Dinner
		Adult Retreat at St. John's

### WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS OCTOBER 20, 2019

8:45 AM		11:00 AM
Cathy Alpizar	Assisting Minister	Paul Ramsour
needed	Crucifer	Paul Chindvall
Emma Murray, Wilson Murray	Acolytes	Peter Weiss, Asha Olson
Don Besser, Steve Murray	Communion	Michael Douglas, Stephanie Cole
Dianne Mascher, Ginny Jordan	Altar Guild	Carol Lane, Roberta Shaw
Bob Peschiutta, Sally and David Kohlstedt	Ushers	Helen and Bob Norheim, Kathy Ohler, Mike Mann
Mary and Chris Engen	Coffee Servers	Sharon and Rob Englund
Joyce Peterson, needed	Counters	Gary Johnson, Scott Cole
	Closer	Vicki Mann