



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 C. A. Rasmussen and Angela T. Khabeab, Pastors

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

Holy Trinity has been presented with a unique opportunity. Rev. Doug Mork, an ordained ELCA pastor who has worked with labor and community organizing throughout his career, was recently selected as the Executive Director of Building Dignity and Respect Standards Council (BDC). This organization, which assists and empowers workers who are not eligible for unionization, was started by Centro de Trabajadores Unidos en la Lucha (CTUL), one of Holy Trinity's longtime justice partners.

Earlier this year, Rev. Mork approached Holy Trinity leadership about extending a part-time, one-year term call so that he could remain active in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) while working at BDC. After reflection and conversation, Pastor Ingrid and Pastor Angela, the Personnel Committee, Bishop Ann Svennungsen, and the Church Council have concluded that this is an opportunity for Holy Trinity to continue to use congregational privilege to connect us to the work of our racial justice ministry partner.

At their (online) meeting on April 8, the Church Council voted to call a congregational meeting for the purposes of extending a part-time, one-year term call to Pastor Doug Mork, who would serve full-time as Executive Director of the Building Dignity and Respect Standards Council and part-time as Associate Pastor at Holy Trinity. The Council now invites the congregation into a period of discernment related to this call.

In this time of social distancing, we will facilitate an online congregational meeting on Sunday, April 26, at 12:00 p.m. The meeting will be held on Zoom. The voting process will begin following the meeting and will close on Thursday, April 30, at 12:00 p.m. Details regarding the congregational meeting and voting process can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

Logistics aside, the idea of calling an associate pastor outside of the traditional monthslong call process may seem strange. However, like many things these days, this is an unusual situation—one that the leadership of Holy Trinity believes aligns with the congregation's commitment to social justice, partnership with community organizations, and support of the neighbor. This is one tangible way we can use our power and privilege to accompany immigrant neighbors and low-wage workers. Find more information about the proposed call, BDC, Rev. Doug Mork, and the congregational meeting in the next column. We thank you for your prayerful discernment and look forward to our conversation on Sunday, April 26.

Peace and hope,

Nicki Hines, Council President
Pastor Ingrid Rasmussen
Pastor Angela Khabeab

(more information on back)

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

READINGS

Acts 2:14a, 22-32; Psalm 16; 1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31

EARTH DAY 2020 EVENTS

The Caring for Creation team invites you to join in one or more of the following 50th anniversary of Earth Day events (April 22). These and other activities have been changed to online and are posted at www.mnearthday.org. Please email Kathy Hollander (Kath77holl77@gmail.com) and let her know which one(s) you participated in:

- In Minneapolis, there's a Litter Be Gone Campaign for people to share a photo of their litter and recycling pickup on their walks. Find out more at www.LitterBeGone.org/participate.
- Adopt a storm sewer drain on your block! Register your drain to receive a special gift, and post pictures on social media, tagging @adoptadrain and using the hashtags #adoptadrain and #earthdaybirthday2020.
- *Climate Generation: A Will Steger Legacy* will host a LIVE virtual storytelling slam to hear personal stories, poems, and songs about experiences of climate change on Earth Day from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Register to join!

OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONNECTION

Pastor Ingrid will host a Zoom call each Tuesday from 12:00 to 12:50 p.m. This conversation will allow participants to see and share with one another. The time will close with prayer. Log on to zoom.us/j/177693681 (password 634717), or call (312) 626-6799 and follow the prompts (meeting ID 177 693 681, password 634717).

Pastor Angela will hold "shelter-in-place office hours" each week on Tuesdays from 10:00 a.m. to noon, and on Thursdays from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. Give her a call for a one-on-one conversation at (612) 248-9121. No appointment necessary.

GRATITUDE

Deep thanks to all who contributed to the Holy Week worship videos! David Sims, Ann Schrooten, Pastor Angela, and Pastor Ingrid are thankful for your meaningful and creative contributions! We had over 1,600 computers in worship last week.

NEED A ZOOM MEETING?

If you would like to hold a meeting via Zoom, contact Pam Wetterlund (pwetterlund@htlcmpls.org or 651-398-7980). Inform her of the day, time, meeting/topic, and expected number of participants. She will set up a Zoom meeting and email you a link that you can email to everyone you wish to include.

PARISH INFORMATION

Tell us more about The Building Dignity and Respect Standards Council (BDC).

The Building Dignity and Respect Standards Council (BDC) is a new 501(c)3 non-profit organization born out of the work of Centro de Trabajadores Unidos en la Lucha (CTUL), a low-wage worker-led organization in Minneapolis. Increasing numbers of workers who were coming to CTUL for help were from the non-union construction industry. CTUL investigated and organized around numerous cases of wage theft, labor trafficking, and other abuses, but quickly discovered the scale of the problem required a more comprehensive response.

What is the connection between CTUL and Holy Trinity?

CTUL began more than a decade ago as a project of the Worker Interfaith Network (WIN), an organization focused on engaging Twin Cities faith communities in worker justice struggles. CTUL remains deeply connected to faith communities around the Twin Cities and has a long history of support and engagement by Holy Trinity. Holy Trinity has been a partner in the creation of BDC and currently hosts an office and mailbox at Trinity on Lake Apartments.

Why have a pastor lead BDC?

Maintaining a deep relationship between the work of BDC and the faith community is of mutual importance. For the workers and leaders who are building BDC, leveraging the power of our shared values around the dignity of work is critical to the success of this initiative. Through BDC and similar work, Holy Trinity is able to leverage our institutional power and privilege on behalf of low-wage workers and communities of color in our neighborhoods. Furthermore, by having an ordained minister in this role, we connect justice intrinsically to the ministry of Word and Sacrament.

How would this be lived out in relationship to Holy Trinity's other ministries?

Pastor Mork would be under a one-year term call to Holy Trinity that identifies his full-time role with BDC, along with approximately 15 hours/week of Word and Sacrament ministry with Holy Trinity. He would office at Trinity on Lake Apartments and work to build connections between BDC and Holy Trinity members as well as the larger faith community. Pastor Ingrid and Pastor Angela would engage him in the Ministry of Word and Sacrament as appropriate (e.g., guest preaching or teaching when one is on vacation/leave).

What is the financial cost to Holy Trinity?

BDC would pay all salary and benefits so the only financial cost to Holy Trinity would be the small amount of administrative work related to payroll and benefits. BDC has secured philanthropic funding to provide one year of salary. If funding were to continue after one year, the Personnel Committee and Church Council would evaluate the position and decide whether to renew, modify, or terminate the call.

Tell us more about Doug Mork.

Doug Mork received a Master of Divinity Degree from Luther Seminary. He has been a pastor at Holy Trinity-San Martin Lutheran Church in St. Paul, Episcopal Church of the Nativity in Burnsville, and, most recently, Cross of Glory Lutheran Church in Brooklyn Center. In addition, he has worked in labor organizing roles with organizations including the Twin Cities Religion and Labor Network, United Food and Commercial Workers Union 1189, and Twin Cities Social Cohesion Initiative.

How will we vote?

A congregational vote will occur online. After the congregational meeting on Sunday, April 26, all voting members of the congregation will receive an email with a link to a survey asking members to vote yes, no, or abstain on the motion "to extend a one-year term call to Pastor Doug Mork who will serve as Executive Director of the Building Dignity and Respect Standards Council and Associate Pastor of Holy Trinity." Voting will remain open until 12:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 30. Those active members who do not have access to email will receive a self-addressed, stamped postcard the week prior to the meeting, which will allow them to vote by postal mail. Calling a pastor requires a two-thirds majority vote.

How do I join the congregational meeting on Sunday, April 26, at 12:00 p.m.?

More information will be mailed to all active member households this week.

DO YOU SEW?

We'd like to provide masks for residents of Trinity Apartments and Trinity on Lake. Would you be willing to help with this effort? If so, how many masks could you create by Saturday, April 18? (Our goal is 600 masks.) Costs for materials can be reimbursed upon request. Email Deb Sodt (dksodt@gmail.com) for more information. Don't sew, but have a few dollars to add to the production effort? Donations to the congregation's General Fund and/or Coronavirus Assistance Fund can be mailed to the church (2730 E. 31st St., Minneapolis 55406) or given electronically through the website (htlcmpls.org).

DISCUSSION SERIES CONTINUED

The next Zoom session in the post Lenten discussion series will be Wednesday, April 15, from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. (followed by a second session on April 22 at same time). The topic for these two sessions is *The Myth of a Chosen People*. If you have not previously participated in these sessions and would like to join, email Carol Berg (carolyberg@gmail.com) who will send meeting information to attendees. We look forward to "seeing" you at the discussion.

PARISH EVENTS April 19-25, 2020

Tuesday	10:00 a.m.-noon	Office Hours (Pastor Angela)
	12:00 p.m.	Zoom Call with Pastor Ingrid
Wednesday	7:00 p.m.	Readings Discussion (via Zoom)
Thursday	4:00-6:00 p.m.	Office Hours (Pastor Angela)