



HOLY TRINITY

LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE COMMUNITY CHURCH

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Ingrid C. A. Rasmussen and Angela T. Khabeb, Pastors

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND EDUCATION COORDINATOR

It is my honor to introduce our newest member of the Holy Trinity team, Deacon David (pronounced DAH-VEED) Rojas Martínez. Deacon David will be joining us May 18, 2020.

Deacon David will graduate in May from Luther Seminary with a focus on Justice and Reconciliation. The interview team (Pastor Ingrid, Pastor Angela, Deb Sodt, and Katie Schroeder) were impressed by his many gifts: he is professionally bilingual (Spanish/English); he has worked with peacebuilding and reconciliatory work within intercultural settings; he has a deep passion for education for people of all ages and backgrounds. His ministry is driven by his Christian faith and professional training as a consecrated deacon of the Lutheran Diaconal Association.

As our Community Engagement and Education Coordinator, Deacon David will work to advance our congregation's justice priorities and educational opportunities for all ages. Some of his duties include:

- Coordinate ministry programs for children and youth (birth-grade 12) and support the work of the Children and Family and Youth Committees.
- Meet with Holy Trinity members of all ages one-on-one to develop relationships and help members discern their gifts and passions.
- Meet with community leaders and organizations to learn about and understand the justice issues that affect the congregation and community.
- Supervise nursery staff.
- Oversee the Public Voice and Organizing Committee and its working groups (e.g. Racial Justice, Sanctuary/AMMPARO, Reconciling, Israel/Palestine, Doctrine of Discovery, Caring for Creation, Meals on Wheels).
- Collaborate with other staff members and the Adult Education Committee to plan and evaluate ministry programs.
- Lead worship regularly.



THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

READINGS

Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19;
1 Peter 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35

Deacon David has ample ministry experience:

- He has served as a Diaconal Intern at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Frankfort, Indiana, where he assisted the pastor by leading bible studies, preaching monthly, and translating for the local free health clinic. His supervisor, The Rev. Michael L. Crawford said, "He is a good example of Luther's observation, 'In the good we do, we are just little Christs to each other.'"
- He served as Head Sacristan in the Chapel of the Resurrection at Valparaiso University. The Rev. Dr. Rachuy Cox affirms, "David's presence was indispensable. He carried out his numerous responsibilities with exemplary grace. David never disappointed. I am confident that Deacon David has a servant's heart and sees others—
whoever they are—as beloved of God, worthy of God's service...David is an incarnational leader, gifted with skills which he takes care to develop and strengthen—for the sake of the whole. He seeks to be faithful to the call of ministry that God has placed upon his heart. David truly believes that the vast and beautiful diversity of the world is a reflection of the image of God, and David lives his life seeking to embrace that diversity and encouraging and empowering others to do the same"

Deacon David will clearly be an asset to our congregation. He has respect for and openness to others, while remaining grounded in his own sense of self. His many personal, professional, and academic experiences allow him a rich theological perspective that is approachable for people of all ages, including those in the first third of life. He is dedicated to making resources available to the least of us and to helping members of the majority culture think about how to best help the neighbor. In his own words, Deacon David is eager to minister with Holy Trinity as we "continually call the congregation to look beyond its walls and engage the neighbor, creation, and society because this is where the Church's work is certainly needed!"

I am overjoyed to welcome Deacon David Rojas Martínez to Holy Trinity. When he reaches out to you for a one-to-one conversation, I trust you will welcome Deacon David and shower him with Christlike hospitality.

Easter season's blessings,
Pastor Angela

P A R I S H I N F O R M A T I O N

EARTH DAY 2020 EVENTS

Check out the Public Voice Newsletter for the 50th anniversary of Earth Day (this Wednesday, April 22) events suggested by the Caring for Creation team. You can participate in a prayer vigil, adopt a street storm drain, and listen to Minnesota Climate Change stories. Please email Kathy Hollander (Kath77holl77@gmail.com) to let her know which ones you participated in. Additional opportunities include:

- Watch the BBC film *Climate Change—The Facts* on Channel 2 this Wednesday, April 22, at 7:00 p.m.
- The Minneapolis Park Board is encouraging us to help clean up Lake Hiawatha (or any park) in small groups any time this month. Rubber boots or waders are especially helpful on the lake. Post a pic at @MPLSEarthDay w/ the hashtag #mplsDIYEarthDay

PASTORAL CARE

Please don't hesitate to contact us with pastoral care emergencies (Church Office: (612) 729-8358; Pastor Ingrid: (612) 875-6679; Pastor Angela: (612) 248-9121). We will do our best to care for you from a distance. Please contact one of the pastors if your household is suffering because of COVID-19 (e.g., health, food or housing insecurity, employment changes).

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING SUNDAY, APRIL 26, 12:00 P.M.

At their (online) meeting on April 8, the Church Council voted to call a congregational meeting at noon on Sunday, April 26, for the purpose 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. Details can be found in the letter that was mailed to all active member households. If you have questions that you know you'd like addressed at the congregational meeting, please send them to Pam Wetterlund (pwetterlund@htlcmpls.org) by 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 23. At the meeting, all questions will be paired with the name of the person who submitted them.

WORSHIP SERVICE SUNDAY, APRIL 19

The worship video for April 19, the Second Sunday of Easter and the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day, can be found [here](#) (vimeo.com/409076648). We pay particular attention to the beauty of God's creation and our call to be stewards of this miraculous gift.

NEEDLES AND THREAD

Many congregants sewed face masks for residents of Trinity Apartments and Trinity on Lake Apartments. We will soon deliver over 300 masks, which will be accompanied by words of encouragement for this difficult time. Many thanks go out to those who sewed, those who donated materials or dollars to the production effort, and big thanks to Thrivent for swiftly approving an action grant to support this project!

HOLY TRINITY RACIAL JUSTICE TEAM RESOURCE

In the current climate, talking about anything other than Coronavirus could feel irrelevant or prove challenging to focus on; yet in the next month, Holy Trinity's Racial Justice Team will share resources uplifting the importance of talking about race and racism in this current moment, and always. Our goal is to make the topic less intimidating to talk openly about so that it becomes a norm to discuss within our congregation, and we can begin to build common language around the issues we're called to confront.

From Racial Justice Team member, Libby Olstad

For several days a podcast I listened to reverberated in my head and heart. It spoke of discrimination against Asian Americans, today in the throes of Coronavirus, and in years past with struggling immigrants. Innocent people today are being blamed for COVID-19 and we know this same dynamic has happened with disease spread in the past. The podcast message especially touched me because a member of our immediate family is Asian American, as are several cousins. Hearing family stories of hateful comments coming their way in a time already fraught with stress is very disturbing. It's inexcusable! [Click here](#) to be listen to the podcast interview with Dr. Erica Lee, a professor and author from the U of M. It's about 25 minutes, including a short commercial midway—just right for your indoor exercise program or a walk through your neighborhood. Thanks for making time to listen.

Reflection Questions:

1. What stories of racial discrimination have you heard from your own family members current or past?
2. When have you recently observed or participated in "us vs them" behavior?

Action Steps:

1. Have a plan for the next time you hear a racial slur. What will you say?
2. Think about Asian restaurants in your neighborhood currently limited to takeout only. Order lunch or dinner there and thank them for staying open.

GENEROSITY

Donations to the Coronavirus Assistance Fund and to the Church's General Fund (for ongoing operating expenses) can be mailed to the church or given electronically from your [bank account](#) or [credit card](#). We've heard from a few households that are donating a portion or all of their stimulus checks. We thank you all for your creative and generous giving!

PARISH EVENTS April 26-May 2, 2020

Tuesday	10:00 a.m.-noon	"Office Hours" with Pastor Angela
	12:00 p.m.	Zoom Call with Pastor Ingrid
Wednesday	6:00 p.m.	Children's Choir Zoom Rehearsal
	6:30 p.m.	Cantate! Zoom Rehearsal
Thursday	4:00-6:00 p.m.	"Office Hours" with Pastor Angela