



FROM CHURCH BELLS TO ADHAN

One Pastor's Reflections on the Call to Prayer in Cedar-Riverside

One of my favorite childhood memories is the time each summer that I stayed with my grandma in Reedsburg, a small town in Wisconsin. Every day, 4 times a day, one of the church's bells would ring out the time. Back then the town was small enough that you could hear the bell throughout the whole town. I'm pretty sure the bell that rang was from my grandma's church, where my family would attend when we were in town. In fact, I would go with my grandma when she was on the Altar Guild, and as they prepared the church for Sunday I would hang out in the Chancel. I sometimes wonder what part that played in my calling to become a pastor.

To this day, when I hear a church bell announcing the time of the day, I get a warm, fuzzy feeling. I'm sure it is, in part, left over from those idyllic days when I was young.

Yesterday was the beginning of Ramadan, the Muslim holy month similar to Lent. It is a time of prayer, good deeds, fasting, and spiritual reflection. It is a time for Muslims around the world to be more intentional than usual in living out their faith through loving others and showing mercy and kindness to others.

During Ramadan, Muslims fast from sunrise to sunset. This can be particularly challenging in the Northern Hemisphere during the summer months where fasting can last 18 hours. But even without that added challenge, Muslims find community and encouragement in knowing that others are fasting and praying at the same time. And, of course, the breaking of the fast each evening with an Iftar with family and friends is an especially joyful time for everyone.

This year with COVID-19 and social distancing, the mosques are closed and people are left praying alone at home and eating at the end of the day without their family and friends. A time that should filled with joy will be much lonelier this year.

But in Minneapolis, Mayor Jacob Frey saw the wisdom of allowing Adhan to be broadcast out loud in Cedar-Riverside during Ramadan. Cedar-Riverside is home to the largest concentration of Somalis outside of Somalia. When he was asked by CAIR-MN and Dar Al-Hijrah to waive a city noise ordinance for this holy month, he agreed. For the first time in Minnesota history, Adhan will be heard throughout Cedar-Riverside 5 times a day, this year April 24 through May 24.

[Thursday] evening was the first Adhan of 2020. People were milling around, visiting and waiting. Face masks were being handed out. People were reminding each other to stay apart. Different media outlets were interviewing and commenting on this historic moment. People in Somalia were seeing this moment live.

(cont.)

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

READINGS

Acts 2:42-47; Psalm 23; 1 Peter 2:19-25; John 10:1-10

When the time for prayer came the speakers on the roof of Dar Al-Hijrah sent out Adhan. Silence immediately settled on all who had gathered. Cell phones were held up, recording. And we listened. I don't know long it lasted, but the silence held. Imam Sharif said a few words and a short call and response kind of litany came from the people twice. And then everyone left, heading home for prayers and a meal.

I felt those warm fuzzies again. I could only imagine what it was like for the people gathered. For some, this was the first time in decades they were able to hear Adhan outside since leaving their homes in Somalia.

One thing I know—I'll be going back to the neighborhood from my makeshift office at home to hear Adhan in the days to come. Not for the warm fuzzies. Warm fuzzies are nice, but too temporary. I'll be going to hear, along with my Muslim siblings, a reminder of God's greatness and bigness—a reminder that we are all created by God, that we are all in this, all of this life together.

—Jane Buckley-Farlee

TRINITY APARTMENTS

The Trinity Apartments renovation has begun! Due to the coronavirus, we reversed the construction schedule to protect both residents and construction workers. This means the outdoor work on the church property will be completed first. The new playground and garage are under way on the north side of the church building. If you're out and about in the coming weeks, drive through the alley and monitor the progress!



PARISH INFORMATION

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

A congregational meeting was held online 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. Get to know more about Pastor Doug and BDC in this [4-minute video](https://vimeo.com/411112928) (vimeo.com/411112928). Results of the vote will be published on Monday, May 4, after ballots are received. Thank you to the more than 100 congregants who attended the meeting!

WORSHIP SERVICE SUNDAY, APRIL 26

The worship video for April 26, the Third Sunday of Easter can be found [here](https://vimeo.com/411252403) (vimeo.com/411252403).

COMMENT ON AN ELCA SOCIAL MESSAGE

Our denomination, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), is preparing a social message on government and civic engagement. From March 20 to May 27, ELCA members are invited to provide feedback on a draft of the message. This writing project was requested by the 2019 Churchwide Assembly and authorized in November 2019 by the ELCA Church Council. It will be considered for adoption at a June meeting of the council.

Click [here](#) to read the draft "Social Message on Government and Civic Engagement: Discipleship in a Democracy." To offer feedback, please fill out the [survey](#). You may also email comments to draftsocialmessage@elca.org. The comment period ends May 27.

Social *messages* are teaching documents of the ELCA focused on particular social topics. They are intended to focus attention and urge action on timely, pressing matters of social concern to church and society. ELCA social *statements* are more comprehensive documents developed via a five-year process led by a task force and adopted at churchwide assemblies. To read more about the upcoming work toward a social *statement* on church and state, click [here](#).

MEALS ON WHEELS DELIVERY MAY 4-8

Holy Trinity is scheduled to deliver meals from May 4-8. Since many of our regular drivers are in the higher risk for COVID-19 (70+), "younger" volunteers are being sought. Please contact Mary Engen (engenmary@yahoo.com / 612-716-6338). Meals are picked up at Nokomis Square, 35th Ave. S. and 50th St. at 11:15 a.m. Delivery takes about one hour. To reduce the risk of spreading germs, special delivery procedures have been developed.

HOLY TRINITY RACIAL JUSTICE TEAM RESOURCE (NO. 2 OF 3)

Holy Trinity's Racial Justice Team is sharing resources to help uplift the importance of talking about race and racism in this current moment, and always. Their goal is to make the topics 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. Today's resource reflects on how disease and pandemics frequently harm communities of color inequitably. It can be found [here](https://www.encyclopedia.com/science/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/impact-european-diseases-native-americans) (www.encyclopedia.com/science/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/impact-european-diseases-native-americans).

From Racial Justice Team member, Keith Olstad

I remember learning fairly early in my education that Native Americans were decimated by diseases brought to the Americas by European colonizers. When Libby and I visited Peru in 2015, we did more reading about how diseases brought by Spanish *conquistadors* utterly devastated the immensely sophisticated and powerful Incan society. Only then did I begin to take seriously the dimensions of human suffering our ancestors visited on native people. As a homeowner on what was previously Lakota territory, and as a middle class European-American whose wealth and privilege involved the enslavement of millions of Africans, I find a somewhat surprising opportunity in our current anxiety about COVID-19 to reflect on these past inequities that continue to be highlighted today.

Reflection Questions:

1. Can this disruption of our society lead us to fresh empathy for others who have faced these injustices historically and today?
2. As we seek to be responsible and helpful to our neighbors, can we also cultivate a compassion for those in our history whose lives were terribly compromised and lost?

Action Steps:

1. Read more about Indigenous American societies, like the Incas in Peru or the Aztecs in Mexico.
2. Support groups like CTUL (Centro de Trabajadores Unidos en la Lucha) that organize Latino workers to gain fair participation in our current U.S. society.

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 May 3-9, 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