



THE DOORS ARE OPEN

When I interviewed at Holy Trinity six years ago, I was told to enter through the east doors of the building, nearest to the cul-de-sac. I remember descending down the ramp and pulling open the heavy wooden door, unsure of what I would meet on the other side.

The opacity of that scene changed with Opening Doors—a capital improvement campaign that aimed to address issues of accessibility, hospitality, and safety (of people, not things). Through the congregation's most significant capital project in over fifty years, we created the building's first accessible entrance, relocated the staff offices, created a space for congregants and building partners to wait inside for rides, and made the Bartsch Room useable for seasonal worship and community events.

I can honestly say that the project was a total success. Apart from a silverware drawer in the office kitchenette that just wouldn't stay closed, the project has provided nothing but joy to the staff, the congregation, our building partners, and the wider community! (And don't worry about the silverware drawer; our construction foreperson came back three years after the project's completion to fix it!)

It is with great delight that I write to say that on April 15, 2020, less than five years after the launch of the Opening Doors campaign, we officially paid off the mortgage. The final payment was made possible by the Vi Ladwig Estate, by the developer's fee from Trinity Apartments (funds meant to reimburse the staff time spent developing the renovation project), and, most importantly, by you—the generous members of this community. I want to thank each of you who supported the vision and who contributed financially. I would also like to thank the members of the Design Team, the members of the Funding Team, Miller Dunwiddie Architects, and Watson-Forsberg, the project contractor. Finally, I extend my sincere gratitude to Dawn Wiczorek, a member of Holy Trinity and an architect by training, who, out of the goodness of her heart, served as the owner's representative throughout construction.

If we were not currently sheltering in place, we'd gather around a bonfire in the rain garden, burn the mortgage in a symbolic act of completion, and celebrate a good and faithful job well done. Until we can shout "hooray!" together, I'll do the burning and trust you to do the celebrating, wherever you are.

May this project's success remind us in years to come that the Spirit is always calling us into something new, that God's abundance simultaneously extends our vision and opens our pocketbooks, that together we do big things for the sake of the neighbor, and that nothing—not even a 100-year-old, formidable structure—is beyond reformation. Thanks be to God!

—Pastor Ingrid C. A. Rasmussen

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

READINGS

Acts 17:22-31; Psalm 66:8-20;
1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21

HOLY TRINITY RACIAL JUSTICE TEAM RESOURCE (NO. 3 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. A piece of this topic currently on my mind is "Color Blindness," or the idea that we can mitigate racism by ignoring race. Race, though socially constructed, has very real impacts in our society, and so talking about it transparently is necessary to work toward ending racism. To understand more about "Color Blindness," please watch [this short 5-minute video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H4LpT9TF_ew) (www.youtube.com/watch?v=H4LpT9TF_ew) from *Decoded*.

Reflection from Racial Justice Team member, Teresa Butel

My workplace recently viewed "Color Blindness" together, as it was recommended to us by several equity consultants. Many felt challenged by the style of its presentation because it did not fit the academic framework that many of us are used to when discussing serious topics. The video manages to pack a ton of valuable information in an engaging and brief video, which challenged my workplace to consider expanding where we search for professional development resources and what we label as expert.

Reflection Questions:

1. How did you react to the style of this video? Why?
2. How have you seen racial inequities inflated by the coronavirus pandemic?
3. What language do you/your family use to talk about race and racism?

Action Steps:

Learn about what People of Color in our communities are calling for in Minnesota and sign the petitions/contact your elected officials to support these demands:

- [CTUL](https://ctul.net), calling for the City of Minneapolis to establish a fund for the most vulnerable communities in our city who do not qualify for the federal benefits that have been passed (ctul.net).
- [Black MN COVID-19 Response](https://blackmncovidresponse.com/demands), a full list of demands is on their website (blackmncovidresponse.com/demands).

PARISH INFORMATION

DEVOTIONAL BOOKLETS

If you would like a copy of *The Upper Room* devotional booklet, contact Pam (pwetterlund@htlcmpls.org, 612-729-8358). They can be mailed or you can pick them up by the cul-de-sac door.

OPENING DOORS CELEBRATION

Because we couldn't let this moment pass without a little celebration, we created a 4-minute video that includes photos from the groundbreaking, scenes from construction, and signs of the new life that has emerged since the renovation: vimeo.com/416480315. Spoiler alert: Pastor Ingrid burns the mortgage!

CALL EXTENDED TO PASTOR DOUG MORK

More than 100 of you participated in the congregational meeting on April 26 for the purpose of extending a part-time, one-year term call to Pastor Doug Mork. We received 99 valid votes: 98 YES; 0 NO; 1 ABSTAINED. The vote passed with overwhelming support, so we warmly welcome Pastor Doug to our community of faith. If you'd like to send Pastor Doug a note of welcome, email him at dmork@htlcmpls.org.

IMPROVEMENTS TO OUR BUILDING AND GROUNDS

The custodians and construction workers have been hard at work while the building is not being used. Thanks to Kathy Ekwall for retiling the kitchen off the Community Room. And check out the progress on the garage and playground on the north side of the church building.



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 thank you all for your generous giving!

WORSHIP SERVICE SUNDAY, MAY 10

The worship video for Sunday, May 10, can be found here (vimeo.com/416151139). We are grateful that Pastor Doug jumped right in and served as our preacher while Pastor Angela was on vacation.

PASTORAL CARE

Please don't hesitate to contact us with pastoral care emergencies (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).

OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONNECTION

Pastor Ingrid hosts a Zoom call each Tuesday from 12:00 to 12:50 p.m. This conversation allows participants to see and to share with one another. The time closes with prayer. Pastor Angela holds 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. No appointment necessary. See Pastor Ingrid's Friday email for more information.

LONGFELLOW ALTERNATIVE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

Speaking of Longfellow Alternative High School, we are pleased to share that 32 students will graduate on Thursday, May 14! The dedicated team of Longfellow volunteers are creating a gift bag for each graduate, which will include two face masks made by Holy Trinity members, a lap quilt made by Sharon Englund & company, a \$20 Target gift card, cookies for the graduate, and fruit snacks for their little one(s). (Look for a pictures of the face masks and the lap quilts in this week's worship video!)

PARISH EVENTS May 17-23, 2020

Tuesday	10:00 am-noon	"Office Hours" with Pastor Angela
	12:00 pm	Zoom Call with Pastor Ingrid
Wednesday	6:00 pm	Children's Choir Zoom Rehearsal
	6:30 pm	Cantate! Zoom Rehearsal
Thursday	10:00 am-1:00 pm	Longfellow HS Grad. "Reception"
	4:00-6:00 pm	"Office Hours" with Pastor Angela