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STEPPING OUT IN FAITH TASK FORCE

When Holy Trinity was the beneficiary of a large and unexpected financial windfall from the sale of Trinity Apartments, the Church Council formed the “Stepping Out in Faith” task force to discern how the funds can best be stewarded, in line with the congregation’s mission and for the benefit of the community. Over the past three months, the task force – comprised of Nicki Hines, ZoeAna Martinez, Randy Nelson, Mike Nevergall, Libby Olstad, Tina Russell, Pastor Angela, and Pastor Ingrid – has begun a deliberate process. The following is an update to the congregation on the progress that has been made and the plan for the months ahead.

The work of the task force focuses on the allocation of the gain on sale, which amounted to approximately five million dollars. For the time being, the Church Council approved the investment of these funds with the ELCA Foundation’s Endowment Fund A and in a series of ladder CDs with the ELCA Mission Investment Fund. The money is accessible as needed.

In its first few meetings, the task force had fruitful discussions about how we each define the values of Holy Trinity as a congregation, how we envision Holy Trinity and the surrounding community in ten years, and the assumptions and biases we each bring to this process. One of the most important and ongoing discussions is about how to define the “community” for the purposes of this process. We have named the complexity that the strictly defined “community” of Holy Trinity active members will ultimately vote at the January 2021 annual meeting to approve a plan that stands to benefit a wider (potentially much wider) “community.”

As we gather as much information as possible, the task force has undertaken two parallel processes. The first process is a review of congregational documents – annual reports, ministry site profiles, strategic planning documents, communication audits, and reports from external consultants. Through this process, we identified key themes named repeatedly as being of great importance to the congregation and in which we choose to invest our time, energy, and resources. Among these common themes and values are excellence in worship and preaching; ministry to and with children, youth, and families; community and belonging; learning about contemporary issues; and service and outreach. We also identified common themes for areas of possible improvement, including the accessibility of the building, becoming more multi-culturally competent, and the ongoing need for affordable housing and other services in the neighborhood.

The second process is the development of a communication plan and a strategy for inviting Holy Trinity members and members of the wider community to share their input in the process, by participating in surveys as well as a series of listening sessions. Later this summer, we will invite you to join members of the task force for one or more of these listening sessions, and we encourage active participation and feedback from the community. We cannot make these important decisions without your input.

(continued in next column)

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

READINGS

Jeremiah 28:5-9; Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18;
Romans 6:12-23; Matthew 10:40-42

The brutal murder of George Floyd at the hands of the Minneapolis Police and the uprising that took place as a result give a new meaning to the conversation of defining our “community.” The immediate community surrounding Holy Trinity is hurting deeply, and we are all reeling. On top of the global pandemic of COVID-19, we have once again been reminded of the ongoing pandemics of poverty, hunger, and institutional racism. At the same time, the immediate community surrounding Holy Trinity has come together in a beautiful way. From the first days after George Floyd’s death, our building has become a refuge of hope in a hurting neighborhood, opening our doors to feed and tend to our neighbors in need.

How might these events influence the recommendations for use of the Stepping Out in Faith funds? The short answer is that we do not know yet. Certainly, the context in which we will gather input and make recommendations is significantly different than it was just one month ago, and this new context may bring out new opportunities to lead, serve, and give. At one of the first meetings of the task force, Pastor Ingrid shared a vision that the Holy Trinity building might become the unofficial community center of the Longfellow neighborhood. Over the last month, that long-term vision became a sudden reality of sorts. We are now in a position to imagine with our neighbors a new future that is more equitable and just, not simply a return to the status quo.

What can you do today? We know that you have ideas and questions. With that in mind, we have created an email address to which you can send your feedback for the task force. The address is steppingout@htlcmpls.org. Even though you will not receive a personalized reply, all feedback is valuable and will be taken into consideration by the task force. Please be in touch.

Later this summer, watch for opportunities to participate in a survey related to the “Stepping Out in Faith” process as well as small group listening sessions, led by members of the task force. We plan to replicate the same conversations about values, biases, and dreams for the future, which we have found helpful in our discernment.

Finally, please keep the task force in your prayers as we do our best to chart a course of faithful stewardship, through which our congregation can boldly Step Out in Faith and have a lasting impact on our beloved neighborhood.

Mike Nevergall, Stepping Out Task Force Member

PARISH INFORMATION

HOLY TRINITY IN THE NEWS

- Star Tribune: "Minneapolis organizations, groups transition to meet neighborhoods' needs after George Floyd death." https://m.startribune.com/minneapolis-organizations-groups-transition-to-meet-neighborhoods-needs-after-george-floyd-death/571369952/?fbclid=IwAR3wG5Vr3D-Q89R48C_XlvC9Cc8tYGCE-ukkVgYhe1HIRFsnXvPIHU7CloY
- Living Lutheran: "Minneapolis congregations serve neighbors, work toward racial justice." <https://www.livinglutheran.org/2020/06/minneapolis-congregations-serve-neighbors-work-toward-racial-justice/?fbclid=IwAR1zbNYLfeRjOZPWc7StMDzd8IVffUcklpK00LXUIOhFbXZoIQPQ9I78eM4>

FOOD DISTRIBUTION AT HOLY TRINITY

We served approximately 8,000 households this past week. We are grateful for our partnerships with The Sheridan Story, Second Harvest, The Food Group, the City of Minneapolis, Hennepin County, Frerichs Construction, and the hundreds of individuals, churches, and organizations offering support.

PHARMACY DELIVERY

CVS pharmacies are offering free delivery services to affected areas of North and South Minneapolis through August 31, 2020. Just call a local CVS pharmacy to fill your prescription and they will deliver it to you.

CVS Pharmacies:

- 818 Washington Ave SE, Minneapolis, MN 55414
612 331-4240
- 4656 Excelsior Blvd., St. Louis Park
952-929-0140
- 2001 Nicollet Ave., Minneapolis
612-872-2656
- Central Ave NE, Minneapolis
612-789-2460

HELP WITH ERRANDS

Do you need a face mask delivered or help with an errand? Please let us know. Several members have volunteered to assist those in need. [Simply click here and fill out the form](#) or call the church office. Someone will contact you within 48 hours.

ONLINE FINANCIAL DONATIONS

Donations to the Church's General Fund (for ongoing operating expenses) can be mailed to the church or given electronically from your [bank account](#) or by [credit card](#). We thank you all for your creative and generous giving!

COVID TESTING

Because of demand for testing at our site, the State Health Department added two more hours of free testing for this week. All are welcome, regardless of whether or not one is exhibiting symptoms. Sign up [here](#) for an appointment on Tuesday or Wednesday, June 23-24, between 11:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

PASTURES A PLENTY MEAT DELIVERY JUNE 27

Pastures A Plenty Meat & Farm Co. will deliver meat in the Holy Trinity cul-de-sac on Saturday, June 27, from 4:00 to 4:30 p.m. Orders need to be placed by 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 24. Visit their website to see what is available, then email (shop@pasturesaplenty.com) or call them (320-367-2061) to place your order.

PASTORAL CARE

Please don't hesitate to contact us with pastoral care emergencies (Church Office: (612) 729-8358; Pastor Angela: (612) 248-9121; Pastor Doug: (612) 310-5752). 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 or the effects of social unrest; we have resources to help.

DIALOGUES ON RACE DISCUSSION SERIES BEGINS JULY 1

Please join members from the Racial Justice Committee and Doctrine of Discovery Task Force for a discussion series based on the short book *Dialogues on Race*. The book consists of seven distinct chapters from diverse writers covering issues around race, the Bible, whiteness, African American and Native American experiences in the U.S., the role of women in racial justice movements, and more. The bi-weekly series will discuss one chapter each session. The introduction and first chapter will be discussed Wednesday, July 1, from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.

WORSHIP LINK FOR SUNDAY, JUNE 21

The worship video for Sunday, June 21, can be found here: <https://vimeo.com/431035916>. We welcomed Deacon David Rojas Martínez, Holy Trinity's Community Engagement and Education Coordinator, as our preacher.

BIG MEETING NIGHTS JULY 2 and 7

Big Meeting nights in July are Thursday, July 2, and Tuesday, July 7. If your committee plans to meet one of those nights, please let Pam know (pwetterlund@htlcmpls.org/651-398-7980).

SCHEDULE FOR DONATIONS & DISTRIBUTIONS JUNE 22-26

Monday, June 22

10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.—receive donations
12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.—distribution (food boxes and household supplies)

Wednesday, June 24

10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.—receive donations
12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.—distribution (food boxes and personal soap)

Friday, June 26

10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.—receive donations
12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.—distribution (food boxes, diapers, wipes, and pads)