



THE COMMUNITY CHURCH

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

GOD IS WITH US

I watched the news this morning. The coronavirus crisis is escalating. There are over 140,000 deaths in the United States alone. Some states are even considering reinstating stay at home orders. In the face of this pandemic, the only thing we know for sure is that we are surrounded by uncertainty. This pandemic brings a myriad of challenges: layoffs, medical supply shortages, lack of basic essentials, and a tsunami of financial woes throughout the business sector. People are fighting, literally attacking each other over wearing or not wearing facemasks.

Siblings in Christ, I know it's hard not to worry. I'm concerned about my parents who are in their late seventies. I'm concerned about extended family living in Namibia. Yet, even in this storm of uncertainty, I do experience a modicum of calm. I'm comforted knowing exactly where my children are because all of my little chickadees are at home. I don't have to worry if my daughter is being bullied at school - again. I'm not worried about our oldest child who is living with Autism, that today is the day he has a meltdown and the school calls the police, resulting in a tragic ending. Even though we are living with a keen recognition of what we can and cannot control. I find a peculiar peace in knowing that it is easier to protect my children from COVID-19 than it is to protect them from the everyday injustices that minoritized people often face.

As we negotiate how to live connected lives while practicing social distancing, may we be encouraged that community still happens. Every time we let ourselves follow the wind of the Spirit of God, we are in community. When we choose love over hate, when we offer forgiveness even though vengeance would be far easier, we are in community. When we embrace every opportunity to choose hope over fear, we are in community.

When we are unable to meet God in our familiar worship spaces, we discover that our God is not limited by the locations in which we gather. Many of us are accustomed to encountering God through corporate worship. Thankfully, the Spirit is active beyond our buildings, pipe organs, and worship books. Our Savior is fond of breaking boundaries. During this pandemic, we have broadened the ways in which we worship. Thanks be to God! Our God cannot be contained. Daily I remind myself of Paul's words, "For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus" (Romans 8:38-39).

I've asked myself repeatedly, "Is the Good News still good in the midst of a global health crises? In the midst of all forms of oppression?" Absolutely! Jesus makes it clear. "Remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Angela Khabeb, Pastor

EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

READINGS

1 Kings 3:5-12, Psalm 119:129-136;
Romans 8:26-39; Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

ADULT FORUM

SUNDAY, 9:30 AM

Login at zoom.us or call 312-626-6799

Zoom Link ID: 858 5687 1594

Password: 317879

JULY 26 & AUGUST 2

"Contemplative Spirituality: Centering Presence and Sacred Activism"

Scott McRae, founder of Sojourners Institute

The mounting demands of our external world require an equally dynamic response in our inner worlds. Contemplative spirituality is required of churches and people who seek to stay centered and faithful amidst the overwhelming pressures of these times. The sessions will include presentations, contemplative practices, and group discussions.

BIG MEETING NIGHTS AUGUST 6 and 11

Big Meeting nights in August are Thursday, August 6, and Tuesday, August 11. If your committee plans to meet one of those nights, please let Pam know (651-398-7980/pwetterlund@htlcmpls.org.)

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!

PARISH INFORMATION

DIALOGUES ON RACE DISCUSSION SERIES CONTINUES

Please join members from the Racial Justice Committee and Doctrine of Discovery Task Force for continuation of the 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 third chapter will be discussed Wednesday, July 29, from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. If you would like the discussion questions ahead of time or a copy of the book (no charge), email Randy Nelson at rnelson1941@yahoo.com. All Holy Trinity members and friends are welcome to participate.

ZOOM PRESENTATION ON INSTITUTIONAL RACISM WITH ALICIA SOJOURNER JULY 28, 7:00 P.M.

Alicia Sojourner, consultant to Holy Trinity, will present her findings on institutional racism via Zoom on Tuesday, July 28, at 7:00 p.m. A short summary or, if you prefer, her full report are both posted on Holy Trinity's website under "Members." (If you're a member of HT and need the password, call or email Sue Roberts (sroberts@htlcmpls.org/612-729-9277)) All are encouraged to review one of these before the meeting. We believe the information will be very helpful to us as we move toward organizational greater equity and inclusion. We would much prefer that the information be shared face to face where there could be more dialogue. Unfortunately, that is not possible for some time to come. Alicia has already shared her report with the Racial Justice Group, Pastors, staff, Council, and other church leaders. Join us if you can.

HOLY TRINITY MEMBER-ONLY PAGE ON WEBSITE

There is now a member-only (password protected) page on Holy Trinity's website. An email was sent to all members last week with information about accessing the page. If you are a member of Holy Trinity and need the password re-sent, please email Sue Roberts at sroberts@htlcmpls.org. The member-only section has a current Holy Trinity directory, reports from Alicia Sojourner, Zoom meeting information for upcoming events, and other timely and important information.

KALEO CENTER: ENCORE 2020

Are you 55+ and thinking about what's around the bend? Are you someone with decades of skills, connections, insights, wisdom, and experiences? Are you wondering how to bring this lifetime of experience to bear on the many issues facing our world and its future? Are you looking forward to your Encore chapter, but not sure how to navigate your transition? Encore 2020 is for you. Encore 2020 is a 7-month seminar for adults age 55 and over seeking to discern and build their Encore chapter of purpose and meaning. For more information, visit <http://kaleo.center/encore2020/>. Scholarships are available.

CONCERNING PEOPLE

We celebrate with **Jessica Olson**, member of Holy Trinity, who was called to be the next pastor of Bethany Lutheran Church in Onamia, Minnesota.

WORSHIP LINK FOR SUNDAY, JULY 19

The worship service for July 19 can be found here: vimeo.com/439561369. We invite you to find bread or crackers, wine or grape juice (or any morsel of food and sip of liquid) in your house and celebrate Holy Communion with all of us.

SCHEDULE FOR DONATIONS & DISTRIBUTIONS JULY 20-24

Monday, July 20

10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.—receive donations

12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.—distribution (food boxes, cooking oil, laundry detergent, dish soap, paper products)

Wednesday, July 22

10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.—receive donations

12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.—distribution (food boxes, body soap, hand soap, shampoo, and Gatorade)

Friday, July 24

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 maxi pads)

To volunteer, sign up <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0a4da5a829a0f85-holy7>

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.

OLIVE OIL AVAILABLE

Each year, the Lutheran World Federation Jerusalem Program, located on the Mount of Olives in East Jerusalem, receives a special blessing. After harvesting, olives from the 800 trees on the Lutheran World Federation property are pressed into olive oil. Some of the oil is used in the Augusta Victoria Hospital kitchen to feed patients, family members, and staff. The rest is used in kitchens around the world by friends and visitors of the LWF, whose donations help to support the work of the LWF Vocational Training Program and help to reduce the fees of students. For more information see: <https://jerusalem.lutheranworld.org/>. You can purchase 250ml bottles of this oil for \$15 each. Please contact Bob Brose (bob@qbjnet.com) to arrange for drop off or pickup.

