



THE COMMUNITY CHURCH

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

CHURCH COUNCIL NEWS & UPDATES

At the council meeting in May, church leadership decided to close the building until at least September 13 due to the COVID pandemic. Little did we know then how open our building would become, and how important the work of the congregation would be to the neighborhood, just a few weeks later. While we have witnessed physical destruction in the community surrounding Holy Trinity, we have also witnessed amazing generosity of time, talent, and treasure. As we move through the summer, I'd like to share updates of the extraordinary activity that is happening inside and outside the building.

Distribution and Food Insecurity

Since early June, Holy Trinity has been providing food and basic necessities for hundreds of families each week. Individuals, congregations, and businesses have donated household and family items, and community organizations have been providing canned food and fresh produce. While we know that food insecurity will remain—and indeed is predicted to become worse as the pandemic continues—we will end the current system of distribution by early September to focus on advocating for and supporting a more sustainable, COVID-compliant response into the fall and winter. What this looks like, we do not yet know, but we are committed to supporting the issue of food insecurity through 2020. During August, we will move to distributing food two days a week and will work with our community partners to identify the best way forward.

Financial Update and The Justice Fund

In last week's Community Church we shared a high level Financial Report that included Budget Receipts and Budget Requirements. In that report we did not separate the receipts for the General Fund from those for the Justice Fund, a new fund that was established in the wake of George Floyd's murder and the subsequent uprising. Last week's report also erroneously noted the wrong date. The Financial Report in this week's Community Church is correct and updated. Generosity abounds. Over \$350,000 has been given to the Justice Fund from more than 8,000 individual donations, coming from all over the world. In addition, about \$37,000 was donated to the general fund in response to George Floyd's death.

The purpose of the Justice Fund is to respond to and support the needs of the community in the wake of the uprising. Key priorities include food insecurity in the Longfellow and surrounding communities, support for near neighbors who lost belongings in the fires, partner organizations with whom we work closely in food distribution, and neighborhood rebuilding efforts with an eye toward equity and inclusion.

(continued in next column)

NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

READINGS

Isaiah 55:1-5; Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21;
Romans 9:1-5; Matthew 14:13-21

ADULT FORUM

SUNDAY, 9:30 AM

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

Zoom Link ID: 858 5687 1594

Password: 317879

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. If you wish to download materials from Scott's forums, email Sue (sroberts@htlcmpls.org).

AUGUST 9

"Consider a Creation Care Statement"
Creation Care Team

The Caring for Creation Team has been working hard on a statement that reflects the feedback received from many members. Join the Zoom conversation to support this closer-to-final revision.

The Church Council will oversee the fund and review revenues and expenses on a monthly basis. The Council has appointed a small subcommittee to be responsive to questions of a more immediate nature. Members include Nicki Hines (Council President); Scott Cole (Council Member); Steve Murray (Treasurer); John Sulzbach (Financial Stewardship Member); and Pastor Ingrid. Kaia Ellis, financial administrator, is diligently ensuring that all donors are appropriately acknowledged, and a team of members are writing personal thank you notes.

Stepping Out in Faith

Thank you to the 120+ members who completed the Stepping Out in Faith survey! We're grateful for the wealth of thoughtful ideas, suggestions and words of caution shared. The Task Force is reviewing the responses and planning the next phase of communication and input. Watch for more to come in August.

Nicki Hines, Church Council President

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 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 the reports before the meeting. We believe the information will be very helpful to us as we move toward organizational greater equity and inclusion.

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.)

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.

LIBRARY NOTES

With public libraries closed due to COVID-19, it has become difficult to borrow the books we might want to read these days, especially books on racism, Indigenous issues, and social justice. Holy Trinity's library is also closed, but if you'd like to know if we have a specific book or want a book recommendation on any subject, contact librarian Roberta Shaw (roberta.shaw@yahoo.com / 651-206-6334). We could work out a way to get the book to you in a COVID-safe way.

HOLY TRINITY IN THE NEWS

Pastor Angela was interviewed on [Good Morning America](#).

WORSHIP LINK FOR SUNDAY, JULY 26

The worship service for July 26 can be found here: <https://vimeo.com/441611955>. 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 us.

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.

Thank you for the card and your work - glad to support your efforts in the near future to help rebuild the community



GRATITUDE MINISTRY

We say his name: George Floyd.

Holy Trinity has a team of just over 20 volunteers who are hand writing thank you notes to all people who have contributed to the Justice Fund. We currently have placed 500 notes in the mail. Yet we have a long way to go, as there is an ever-growing volume of contributions—more than 8,000 at this time. The team writing notes is grateful for a way to volunteer in a meaningful way during this time, as many of us are more vulnerable to COVID-19 and cannot be present with the daytime distribution at the church building. Anyone who might be in the same situation is invited to join this team. Contact Lynda Nordholm (612-703-6450) or Ginny Jordan (715-829-0264).

FINANCIAL REPORT AS OF JUNE 30, 2020

Budget requirements:	439,564.00
Budget receipts:	508,874.84
Justice Funds received:	350,260.39
World Hunger:	2,740.00
Disaster Relief:	2,100.00

Note: Last week, the numbers we printed did not separate the General Fund from the Justice Fund (established in the wake of George Floyd's murder and the subsequent uprising).