



# THE COMMUNITY CHURCH

On 31st Street between Minnehaha and 28th Avenues Minneapolis, MN 55406 • 612-729-8358 • office@htlcmpls.org • www.htlcmpls.org  
Ingrid C. A. Rasmussen, Angela T. Khabebe, and Doug Mork, Pastors

## MESSAGE FROM DEACON DAVID

Dear Church, beloved siblings in Christ,

My name is David Rojas Martínez and I am your sort-of-new-deacon with the lofty title of Community Engagement and Education Coordinator. I began my time among you through Zoom trainings while finishing up the last bits towards my Master of Divinity degree in a pandemic-safe, isolated, seminary dormitory. All of us now have stories of what the last few days of May and the most recent months have been like; how many of us were catapulted into a world that is rightly demanding restitutions so long denied to our black siblings. Black lives matter yesterday, today, and tomorrow. Black lives matter to God, and they matter to us at Holy Trinity.

I am grateful to be among you as we figure out what our life together looks like during a pandemic and as we wrestle with our complicity in racist structures which have benefited us. Being physically distanced from you all, my new faith community, has been a source of sadness to me and I grieve not being able to meet everyone in person. This morning, for apparently no reason, I woke up with a gnawing hunger to share the communion table with you all and knowing that it will not happen any time soon filled me with sadness. I want to encourage us to grieve because it is okay to feel the many raw, human emotions for the many things we are losing. Many of you may feel like you are so physically distanced from what has been happening on the ground at the church building that you may feel greatly disconnected from our Holy Trinity community.

A few weeks ago, a church youth group came to help with our food distribution and to learn among us. At the end of the day, Pastor Angela led us in a wonderful-physically-distanced devotion in which we heard the words from Saint/Sinner Luke's gospel concerning the persistent widow. At the beginning of the parable we learn that, "Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart." (Romans 18:1). As a group we chatted a bit about how sometimes it seems like the world as we know it is coming to an end, and many times it is! Especially now! When we are faced by this human reality, our redeemer invites us to pray. With this in mind, I invite us into deep prayer so as to not lose heart. The act of prayer certainly looks very different for all of us. I myself am drawn to the mystics and monastic ways of praying so I make sure to create a time and space for contemplation, kneeling, and repetition of words. However, some of you may do your best praying as you pull weeds in your garden, as you bike down the Green Way, or as you sip coffee. However, whenever, and wherever it is that you pray I invite all of us to do it more earnestly so as to not lose heart.

(continued in next column)

## TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

### READINGS

1 Kings 19:9-18; Psalm 85:8-13;  
Romans 10:5-15; Matthew 14:22-33

### ADULT FORUM

SUNDAY, 9:30 AM

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

Zoom Link ID: 858 5687 1594

Password: 317879

### 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. You are asked to read the statement prior to the adult forum. The 2-page document can be accessed [here](#) or at [htlcmpls.org/downloads](http://htlcmpls.org/downloads), under "Reports and Information."

### ANTI-RACISM ACTION STEPS

Alicia Sojourner's consultation on institutional racism challenges us to take anti-racism actions to meet our congregational equity and inclusion goals. At her recommendation, we plan to set up several small teams in the coming months to begin this work. These teams of 7 to 8 members will select several of the more challenging gaps in racial justice within Holy Trinity. They will use data from the consultation to develop action plans and means of measuring success. Others will be recruited to help with the work to be done. Action steps will be coordinated with staff leadership and Council, with some guidance from Alicia. We expect their work to start in late August or early September. If you're interested in being part of this important work please email Randy Nelson at [rmnelson1941@yahoo.com](mailto:rmnelson1941@yahoo.com) with a few sentences on the interest, skills, and experience you bring to an equity team.

Thanks from the Racial Justice Group

(continued from previous column)

In our praying together, we remain connected to the Creator of All and to one another until it is safe for us to once again be physically together. Do not lose hearts, beloved siblings, instead cry out to the Divine One who knows our pain, sadness, and frustration. Hold one another tenderly in prayer and love as we move forward together into a new life that none of us could have ever imagined. Please know that I pray for you all daily and that I cannot wait to gather in person together. Peace be yours.

## PARISH INFORMATION

### **DIALOGUES ON RACE DISCUSSION—CHAPTER 4**

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 fourth chapter will be discussed Wednesday, August 12, from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. A link to the Zoom discussion is [here](#). Or from zoom.us or 312-626-6799, enter Meeting ID: 944 0296 8325 and PW: 768994. 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](mailto:rnelson1941@yahoo.com). All Holy Trinity members and friends are welcome to participate. If you have not previously participated, you are welcome to join the session (each chapter covers a different topic).

### **HAVE YOU LEFT A COOLER AT THE CHURCH?**

A number of coolers were loaned to us following the unrest in the neighborhood, and we would like to get them back to their owners. Please contact Nolan (952-594-2772) or Pam ([pwetterlund@htlcmpls.org](mailto:pwetterlund@htlcmpls.org)/651-398-7980) to claim your cooler.

### **YOUTH CHOIR VOICE CHECKUPS!**

For Returning and NEW Singers entering Grades 1-8 Wednesdays August 5, 12, 19, and September 2 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Please visit the following link to sign up for a 30-minute Zoom Chat with Ms. Ann: <https://signup.com/go/xZWDjmE> Let's catch up and see how your voice is growing!



### **TEXT STUDY RESUMES (VIA ZOOM) ON TUESDAYS**

Join other members at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesdays to study the bible readings for the upcoming Sunday (you can find the readings at the top right of this newsletter). Join the Zoom Meetings here: <https://luthersem.zoom.us/j/124730048>, or call 1 (312) 626 6799 and enter meeting ID 124 730 048.

### **HOLY TRINITY IN THE NEWS**

Pastor Angela is published in the August edition of *Living Lutheran*. Find her article [here](#).

### **WORSHIP LINK FOR SUNDAY, AUGUST 2**

The worship service for August 2 can be found here: <https://vimeo.com/443872473>. 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.

### **WE BELONG TO EACH OTHER**

Are you interested in making new connections with other Holy Trinity folk around a book, a topic of interest, a spiritual practice, or an outdoor adventure this fall? With many of us spending more time at home and feeling physically distant from the relationships that sustain us, we want to know that we are not alone and that we really do belong to one another.

If you have read any of the recent articles in the Community Church submitted by several small group leaders about their experience visiting bird habitats, practicing Lectio Divina, or reading a book together about Sage-ing and Age-ing, you learned that the members of these groups also found new friends, deeper connections, and even some new insights into themselves.

The **Communities of Calling Team** (Deb Anderson, Erin Arifin, Kathy Howe, Sandra Hisakuni, Mike Mann, Pastor Ingrid, and Ann Schrooten) will soon be announcing a new round of small groups starting up this fall, and we'd love your input! These groups are intentionally small to allow for easy conversation and sharing of thoughts and ideas around the focus of the group. In addition, time is set aside at each meeting to consider how the Spirit may be at work in our lives right now and why the focus of the group you've chosen to commit to speaks to you. Groups are limited to 6 people who meet via Zoom or safely in the great outdoors for a series of 4 sessions. If you are interested in belonging to such a group, or if you have an idea for a group that you'd be interested in joining, please email Ann Schrooten ([aschrooten@htlcmpls.org](mailto:aschrooten@htlcmpls.org)).

*Communities of Calling* is an initiative of the Collegeville Institute at St. John's in Collegeville and funded by a grant from the Lily Endowment. Holy Trinity is one of 14 congregations from around the United States and Canada that are participating in this initiative.