



THE COMMUNITY CHURCH

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

SEEKING JUSTICE

Dear Church, dearest siblings of faith,

In the piece I previously wrote for the newsletter, I mentioned the beginning of the *Parable of the Persistent Widow* (Luke 18) in which Jesus invites his followers—including us!—to pray so that we do not lose heart. In these last few days, I have continued to pray for all of you, and I trust that the Divine has danced in your lives. In my praying I have also not forgotten the full parable about a woman who would not take no for an answer. On the day in which Pastor Angela led the visiting youth group in a devotion on the front stoop of the church building, we asked our visitors to uplift words that they heard or that came to mind describing the widow. After a timid start, different voices popcorned adjectives and phrases like: “Annoying.” “Brave.” “Insistent.” “Would not give up easily.” As they shared these thoughts, I mentioned to them that they sat in the exact same space on which, weeks prior, bravery and not giving up easily were embodied by those demanding justice following George Floyd’s murder. We chatted about how easy it was for detractors to deem the Uprising as annoying, at best, when in fact the rallying cry “Black Lives Matter” is the same admirable persistence of the widow in Luke’s gospel.

As we move forward into the coming months, we must continue to be prayerful, persistent folks grounded in faith and demanding justice. It may be difficult to imagine how to best navigate justice-seeking in the midst of a pandemic, but I want to encourage all of us to not give up easily. In one of my first larger interactions with you, I co-led a prayer vigil through Zoom with Pastor Ingrid and Cantor David at the end of which I included some resources which I believe continue to be helpful for us today. Please send an email to me at drojasmartinez@htlcmpls.org for a full list of resources. Otherwise, I invite you to continue educating yourself and your loved ones about racial justice issues, perhaps getting started at <https://rjb.religioused.org/blog/>. Unfortunately, we must oftentimes grapple with the painful history of the U.S. in order to be reminded why our faith commitments demand that we continue to annoy the system—a system which has been created for our benefit to the continued detriment of black lives. I also encourage you to advocate for justice by calling or writing letters to Mayor Jacob Frey (612-673-2100) and/or the Department of Civil Rights of the City of Minneapolis (612-673-3012) as we imagine the future of our city with racial justice in mind. In your letters and phone calls you may consider voicing your support of a diverse city leadership, economic support to areas affected by the Uprising, and that the city will listen to on-the-ground leadership as we rebuild. Finally, please do consider donating resources, time, and energy to just causes such as our own food distribution, which will last as is through August 28. We are always in need of donations and volunteers.

(continued in next column)

ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

READINGS

Isaiah 56:1, 6-8; Psalm 67;
Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32; Matthew 15:10-28

ADULT FORUM

SUNDAY, 9:30 AM

Login at zoom.us or call 312-626-6799 or click [here](#)

Meeting ID: 858 5687 1594

Password: 317879

AUGUST 16 “What Now in Race Work?”
Vivian Jenkins Nelsen

Vivian founded the Inter-Race Institute with her husband and has spent her whole life working within the Lutheran Church on matters of racial equity. She has identified two short articles that can be read ahead of time. Contact Randy Nelson (rnelson1941@yahoo.com) to have them sent to you.

AUGUST 23 “Service Trip to Cuba”
Donna Goodlaxson and Bob Brose

Donna and Bob will talk about their trip to Cuba last fall.

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 (rnelson1941@yahoo.com) with a few sentences on the interest, skills, and experience you bring to an equity team.

(cont.) Siblings of faith, I’m grateful to be in community with you, and in our common praying I hope that God will lead us to not give up easily. It’s a tricky life, this faith-filled one, and we must be grounded in the Source of All in order to insist on God’s Kin-dom in the here and now. My prayers and my insistent reminders are with you, dear Church.

Deacon David Rojas Martinez
Community Engagement and Education Coordinator

PARISH INFORMATION

DIALOGUES ON RACE DISCUSSION—CHAPTER 4

Please join members from the Racial Justice Committee and Doctrine of Discovery Task Force for the continuation of the bi-weekly discussion series based on the short book, *Dialogues on Race*. If you would like a copy of the book (no charge), email Randy Nelson (rmelson1941@yahoo.com).

The fourth chapter will be discussed Wednesday, August 12, from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. Jim Bear Jacobs is the author of this chapter, "*American Amnesia: Christianity and the Erasing of Native American Stories*," and he will co-facilitate the session. Jim Bear Jacobs, Mohican, is Program Director for Racial Justice at the Minnesota Council of Churches and parish associate at the Church of All Nations Presbyterian Church.

To join this session, click [here](#) or login to Zoom and enter the meeting ID 987 6541 0718 and passcode 893110. 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 pertains to a different topic).

MEALS ON WHEELS DELIVERY AUGUST 24-28

Holy Trinity is responsible for delivering meals the week of August 24-28. Meals are picked up at Nokomis Square (35th Ave. S. and 50th St. E) at 11:15 a.m. Volunteers can sign up to deliver meals for one day or several days. Please contact Mary Engen (engenmary@yahoo.com) if you are interested and available. We have procedures that are being used to mitigate the COVID-19 virus situation.

YOUTH CHOIR VOICE CHECKUPS!

- For Returning and NEW Singers entering Grades 1-8
- Wednesdays August 12, 19, and September 2
- 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. - 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.

PASTURES A PLENTY DELIVERY SATURDAY, AUGUST 15

Order fresh locally raised meat from Pastures A Plenty, a 4th generation family farm producing naturally raised pork, beef, chicken, and organic crops. Pick up on Saturday from 2:00 to 2:30 p.m. (new Saturday pick-up time) in the Holy Trinity cul-de-sac. Order from their website (www.pasturesaplenty.com) or by email (shop@pasturesaplenty.com) before Wednesday, August 12. If you want eggs, please email your order; eggs are not on the website this month.

WORSHIP LINK FOR SUNDAY, AUGUST 9

The worship service for August 9 can be found here: <https://vimeo.com/445886950>. 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).

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.

Congregations are the best places for God's people to be inspired and equipped to live out their callings each day.

—Jack Fortin, *The Centered Life*