



THE COMMUNITY CHURCH

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

BUILDING DIGNITY AND RESPECT COUNCIL

Doug Mork, Pastor, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

These last months have served as a consistent reminder both of the deep brokenness of our world and of the extraordinary potential for compassion and love among God’s beloved people. I am thankful for all I have been privileged to meet, both within the Holy Trinity community and among our neighbors who have shown up in one way or another. Amidst all our challenges, I find hope in what God is up to in this place!

This week and next I would like to tell you a little about the Building Dignity and Respect Standards Council (BDC), the nonprofit where I serve as Executive Director. When I showed up in Knoxville, Tennessee, thirty-three years ago last month, I became quickly immersed in a world of low-wage, exploited, and abused workers at the bottom of a variety of kinds of supply chains. Mostly workers of color and immigrants, the workers I got to know were struggling to organize, to change the deep power imbalance in which they found themselves so they could move towards greater dignity and justice at work and in their lives. organizing a union was a critical tool for these workers, frankly often the only tool available that led to any lasting change.

The current COVID pandemic and the impacts on “essential workers” reminds me that little has changed. Our economy continues to be built on the exploitation of workers at the bottom of various kinds of supply chains. The systematic and strategic weakening of labor law and worker protections over the last decades means that in many sectors of the economy, workers are worse-off than they were decades ago. Courageous workers are still organizing, still standing against extraordinary concentrations of wealth and power, and winning greater justice. If we are to move towards greater equity and opportunity, we must fix our labor laws and worker protections.

But with globalization and all the changes in work these last decades, workers have also been experimenting with new models like the Worker Driven Social Responsibility model (WSR) of BDC. Frustrated by the continuing abuses in the tomato fields of Florida, workers at the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW) began to imagine how to move beyond case by case fights over wage theft, sexual harassment, unsafe working and housing conditions, and the like. With local and national allies, they built a model that was worker-driven, enforcement focused, and assigned responsibility for working conditions to those at the top of the supply chain, the national chains that bought tomatoes. Over the past 10 years this model has transformed the industry, and we’ve seen successful new WSR projects in Bangladesh, Lesotho, and Vermont.

(Continued in next column)

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

READINGS

Jeremiah 15:15-21; Psalm 26:1-8;
Romans 12:9-21; Matthew 16:21-28

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 30 Fardosa Hassan

Fardosa Hassan is the Muslim Student Program Assistant in the Campus Ministries office at Augsburg University. She will describe her ministry at the University.

SEPTEMBER 6 AND 13

“The Role of Preaching in a Time
of Protest and Pandemic”

Karoline Lewis, Professor of Biblical
Preaching at Luther Seminary

Preaching has always been central to the worship life of communities of faith, but its purpose changes in the changing circumstances of our lives, our nation, and our world. What should preaching do and how should preaching sound in these unprecedented times of converging realities of protest and pandemic?

(continued from previous column) BDC is the product of Twin Cities construction workers in the non-union sector of construction seeking a similar transformation of their industry. After years of fighting wage theft, dangerous working conditions, and abuse, they decided to adapt the WSR model to their industry. Next week I’ll walk you through how that will work, key benchmarks for success, and how faith communities and the public can lend their voice.

QUESTIONS ABOUT RACISM CONSULTATION

A number of questions arose from members of Holy Trinity after Alicia Sojourner’s presentation and report on Institutional Racism. While several questions deserve more attention and discussion than an FAQ can provide, you may find the answers helpful as a starting point. You’ll find the FAQ on the Holy Trinity website under “Members.” Additional questions are still welcome; direct them to a member of the Racial Justice Group (listed at the end of the FAQ).

PARISH INFORMATION

DIALOGUES ON RACE DISCUSSION—CHAPTER 5

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 (rnelson1941@yahoo.com). The fifth chapter will be discussed Wednesday, August 26, from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. Discussion questions are emailed to previous attendees.

To join this session, click [here](#) or login to Zoom, (or dial 312-626-6799 from your phone) 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).

YOUTH CHOIR VOICE CHECKUPS WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 2

For returning and new singers entering grades 1-8. Visit the following link to sign up for a 30-minute Zoom chat with Ms. Ann: <https://signup.com/go/xZWDjmE>.

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? While many of us are 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.

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).

SERVICE OPPORTUNITY

Several years ago a group of Holy Trinity members and friends created and installed a mosaic in the church garden in two phases. This artwork is now in need of some repair. If you are able bodied, please consider joining us in this work this fall and possibly committing to help maintain the mosaic in the future. This is a great service opportunity for teens. Contact Helen Norheim (hpnorheim@gmail.com) or Juliann Rohn (juliann32@comcast.net).

YTD FINANCIAL REPORT AS OF JULY 31, 2020

Budget requirements:	498,879.00
Budget receipts:	590,798.48
Justice Funds received:	406,367.14
World Hunger:	3,015.00

WORSHIP LINK FOR SUNDAY, AUGUST 23

The worship service for August 23 can be found here: <https://vimeo.com/450348451>. 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.

JOIN A STEPPING OUT IN FAITH FOCUS GROUP

Thank you again to everyone who responded to the recent Stepping Out in Faith survey, as we consider how best to faithfully steward the proceeds from the Trinity Apartments sale. As a next step, you are invited to join members of the task force as we dig deeper into the common themes and questions from the survey results. Five initial focus group sessions have been scheduled, and other sessions may be added depending on demand. You can sign up by [clicking here](#) or by contacting the church office (office@htlcmpls.org/612-729-8358). Group size is limited to allow for active participation so sign up ASAP. If you are unable to participate on a Zoom call, contact the office to schedule a one-one conversation with Tina Russell.

- Thursday, August 27, 7:00-8:30 p.m.
- Saturday, August 29, 9:00-10:30 a.m.
- Tuesday, September 1, 10:00-11:30 a.m.
- Wednesday, September 9, 3:30-5:00 p.m.

UPDATES ABOUT THE THIRD PRECINCT FROM CAM GORDON

I wanted to let people know that the City Council is currently reviewing a proposal from Property Services staff to relocate the 3rd Precinct Police Station into the Seward industrial area at 2633 Minnehaha Ave. A Council committee received the recommendation yesterday, and final approval of a lease agreement will be up for a vote on Friday, August 28. If the action is approved, the hoped for move-in date would likely be sometime in mid to late October.

The staff of the precinct are currently operating out of the Convention Center, and the facility is not ideal for their operations. This facility would offer space for most of the staff formerly housed at the 3rd precinct, excluding 311. This follows an extensive search of any and all suitable alternative locations. The recommendation from staff is to authorize a three-year lease with an option to renew, which would give the City time to make a longer-term plan.

I regret that this proposal is moving so fast and that we have not had more time to work with the community. I have until the 28th to determine my vote and to influence this decision for others. I have already made clear to staff and my colleagues that this proposal is certain to raise concerns from nearby residents and property owners. While some are likely to welcome it as a positive thing, others will have more uncertainty and some may have strong objections. I believe that if this move is to happen, those concerns and objections need to be addressed, and there needs to be clear community benefits, reassurances, and accommodations made for the local residents and businesses, and that those should be made with their input. I am working with staff and neighborhood leaders to convene a virtual and an outdoor meeting early next week to hear from people and get feedback. In the meantime I welcome you to share it here or send it to me (Cam Gordon, 673-2202, 296-0579; cam.gordon@minneapolismn.gov).