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SUMMER 2020 AT HOLY TRINITY

I remember being a bit confused as to what was going on when (after a sleepless night in the church building) the heavy wooden doors were being opened when curfew lifted on Pentecost. Perhaps you too, dear ones, have been wondering about what exactly has been happening at Holy Trinity since the Uprising in light of George Floyd's murder. I hope this and subsequent newsletters will fill you in a bit on what has happened. Today, I will share with you rough estimates of the many folks whose life we impacted and whose lives impacted us.

As the smell of smoke permeated everything inside the building, the pastoral staff and other leaders became aware of the scarcity in our neighborhood: burned down and/or closed grocery stores, public transit that was unreliable, and a slew of other problems. In response to this, Holy Trinity opened up its doors and set out tables. We made calls, posted on social media, and got the word out that our neighborhood lacked access to necessities of life. All of you, people from the area, and folks from across the country and throughout the world, responded. Out of the scarcity that was revealed as embers died, abundance became our motto. "There is enough!" we reminded our shoppers who lined up outside our doors. And it was true, thanks to the generosity of God's people.

At the very beginning of our re-distribution efforts following the Uprising, we served more than 1,000 individuals every day. By the end of the week, we had lost count of how many neighbors had graced our grounds with their presence.

As the days passed, we realized that this model was not sustainable, so we shifted to a three-day-per-week schedule, during which we served roughly 900 individuals per event day. We maintained this rhythm all of June and July. In August, we shifted to a two-day-per-week schedule and began to use numbered pieces of paper in order to have a better sense of the number of neighbors who visited us for shopping needs. Throughout the last month of our re-distribution endeavors, we served 600-800 individuals per event day each week.

Dear ones, it can be easy to speed through what I wrote. I invite you to re-read those numbers and then to pause. Let us give thanks for the thousands upon thousands of lives impacted through beautiful generosity. The thousands of people who visited us are not numbers but rather individuals, each created in the image of God. We from Holy Trinity were entrusted to simply re-distribute what comes from God's overabundance.

As I write this I find myself grateful for the little girl who reminded me that all who came to visit us this summer are beloved children of God. I encountered her as I ran some laundry detergent (a hot commodity!) to its table. She seemed lost, so I asked her if she had lost her grown-ups. Shaking her head and smiling under her pigtails, she giggled a no. I asked her if I could get her anything she needed. She beamed and shared that she really needed a bag of spicy chips. And so I paused my running around to dig through 'sensible' items for a bag of fried snacks. When I found the chips I ran back to her and proudly presented them to her. She smiled, shouted thank you as she ran off, and said, "See you tomorrow!" Yes, dear ones, there is enough. For today. And for tomorrow. Thanks be to God.

—Deacon David Rojas Martinez

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

READINGS

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32; Psalm 25:1-9;
Philippians 2:1-13; Matthew 21:23-32

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

SEPTEMBER 27 "What I Did on My Summer Vacation"

An interview with three teenagers who were active in the summer's resource distribution at Holy Trinity.

OCTOBER 4 "New Member Sunday"

The congregation is invited to boldly welcome new members today. We'll hear from Bob Brose and Donna Goodlaxson, who will offer reflections on what it means to be a part of this community of faith. We'll also be introduced to those choosing to join the congregation.

MEMBER VIDEO SUBMISSIONS FOR ONLINE WORSHIP

We are trying to incorporate members into our worship videos. If you are comfortable recording yourselves on your phone and texting or emailing short videos, please send us a quick note (htoffice@htlcmpls.org), and we'll invite you to be a reader or to offer the dismissal for an upcoming Sunday!

BECOME A MEMBER OF HOLY TRINITY

Knowing that worship will remain online until at least January 2021, we want to give everyone the opportunity to join as new members on Sunday, October 4. We at Holy Trinity believe that community is integral to faith, which is why we invite interested persons to consider membership in this congregation. We trust the Spirit guides this process, leading us to one another and guiding our discernment!

If you'd like to become a member, send an email to htoffice@htlcmpls.org.

PRACTICE ZOOM-ING

If you are unsure about using Zoom to join online events through Holy Trinity (or other organizations), call or email Sue (612.729.9277; sroberts@htlcmpls.org) and we will schedule a one-on-one practice Zoom session. You can learn how to connect with your smart or not-smart phone, a laptop, a computer, or a tablet (such as an iPad). If you need a device on which to participate on Zoom or to watch worship videos, please contact the church office. We want to ensure that our whole community has access to the tools they need for this online connection.



Volunteers from the community help with the food distribution at Holy Trinity in July.

PARISH INFORMATION

DIALOGUES ON RACE DISCUSSION SERIES—CHAPTER 7

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*. The final chapter (*A New Heaven and A New Earth*), led by Mike Miller and Vivian Jenkins Nelsen, will be discussed September 23 from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. If you would like a copy of the book (no charge), email Randy Nelson (rnelson1941@yahoo.com). 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).

COMMUNITIES OF CALLING SMALL GROUP SIGNUP

Sign up soon for a Communities of Calling small group. A few of the 13 groups are filled. Some groups may be starting as soon as next week. The groups include book groups, outdoor adventures, spiritual practices, and support gatherings. Most will take place on Zoom, and the outdoor experiences will take place at safe physical distance in the fresh air of our beautiful Minnesota fall weather. **Please sign up for just one group**—the one that appeals to you the most—to allow as many folks to participate in these small group experiences as possible. Enter your contact information in the comments section of the option you select.

Click [here](#) to review the list of options and to sign up for the one you prefer. Contact Ann Schrooten if you are unable to access the on-line sign-up page.

A COMMITMENT TO INCLUSION IN OUR NEIGHBORHOODS

"It's so hard to know what I can do about racism in these pandemic times." Haven't we all heard that said or felt it ourselves? Now Holy Trinity offers members and friends a very real opportunity.

"A Commitment To Inclusion In Our Neighborhoods" (ACTION) is a program that involves several congregations and is designed and guided by Rev. Jia Starr Brown of First Covenant Church in downtown Minneapolis. The program involves listening, reflecting, and action over the course of one year. You might remember Pastor Jia from our fall workshop on "Racism Is Sin" in 2019. ACTION will use the Intercultural Diversity Inventory (IDI) at the start and end of the program to inform the planning of educational needs in intercultural awareness and measure our growth as a congregational group.

Those who enroll in ACTION will be invited to participate in monthly programs geared towards enhancing cultural intelligence and working towards an anti-racist world. Small groups for growth will take place both within our Holy Trinity community and with other congregations on the same journey. The program will run from October 2020 through October 2021. The sessions will be primarily virtual until it's safe to meet together. The cost for HT members is \$0-36 to cover the cost of the IDI (sliding scale) and all other expenses will be covered through HT Racial Justice.

If you are interested in participating, email Libby Olstad (libbyolstad@icloud.com) or call the church office (612.729.8358) **by Friday, September 25.**

HAVE YOU RESPONDED TO THE CENSUS YET?

The new deadline to complete the Census is September 30, 2020. You can find information [here](#).



DO YOU HAVE A PLAN TO VOTE?

The Public Voice and Organizing Committee reminds you that you have several options for voting in the election on November 3. Choose one now and make a plan to ensure your vote counts! You can register online (deadline October 13) to vote at <https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/register-to-vote/>. This link also has information on how to register at the polls on Election Day. If you aren't sure whether you are registered at your current address, check your status at <https://mnvotes.sos.state.mn.us/VoterStatus.aspx>.



Don't want to go to the polls in person? It's easy to vote early by mail. You don't need to give an "excuse" to do this in Minnesota. Request your ballot at <https://mnvotes.sos.state.mn.us/ABRegistration/ABRegistrationStep1.aspx>. It's best to do this now so that the elections office has plenty of time to send your ballot and you have plenty of time to return it. For your ballot to count, remember this important information: 1) carefully follow the instructions that come with your ballot. One of the most common reasons that mail-in ballots are disqualified is because the voter forgot to sign the form; 2) due to COVID19, registered voters do not need to have a witness sign their form this year; and 3) mail the ballot and forms back right away after you finish. Your returned ballot must be postmarked on or before Election Day (November 3) and received by the elections office by November 10. You may also drop off your ballot envelope in person at your local elections office.

Educate yourself before you vote: to see what will be on your ballot, go to <https://myballotmn.sos.state.mn.us/>

After you've mailed your ballot, put your mind at ease about whether it was received by going to <https://mnvotes.sos.state.mn.us/AbsenteeBallotStatus.aspx> to confirm that it was received and counted.

If you prefer to vote in person, find your polling place at <https://pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us/>.

If you prefer to vote early in person, learn more at <https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/other-ways-to-vote/vote-early-in-person/>.

WORSHIP LINK FOR SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

The worship service for September 20 can be found here: <https://vimeo.com/459733572>. 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.

CONCERNING PEOPLE

God promises to come to us in our **sorrow and grief**. We pray for the family and friends of **Robert Peterson**, whose funeral will be held at Holy Trinity on Sunday, September 27, at 1:00 p.m. Due to limits on the amount of people who can be in the sanctuary at the same time, the congregation will be invited to join the service via livestream. All active members will receive the link by Friday, September 25.

Congratulations to **Herb and Joyce Hanson** who are celebrating their 70th wedding anniversary this week.

Please don't hesitate to **contact us** with pastoral care emergencies (Church Office: 612.729.8358; Pastor Ingrid: 612.875.6679; Pastor Doug: 612.310.5752). We will do our best to care for you from a distance.

Do you need help with an errand? Please let us know. [Simply click here and fill out the form](#) or call the church office. Someone will contact you within 48 hours.