



# HOLY TRINITY

LUTHERAN CHURCH

# THE COMMUNITY CHURCH

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## STEPPING OUT IN FAITH UPDATE

The work of the “Stepping Out in Faith” task force has continued throughout the summer months, and many of you have been actively involved. Thank you to everyone who responded to the congregational survey in July and to those who participated in one of the recent focus group discussions. There was an incredible amount of thoughtful and detailed feedback shared through these two methods, and it has given the task force a great deal to consider and discuss.

A quick recap on the process to date... Holy Trinity was the beneficiary of a large and unexpected financial windfall from the sale of Trinity Apartments. The Church Council formed the “Stepping Out in Faith” task force to determine how the funds can best be stewarded, in line with the congregation’s mission and for the benefit of the community. The task force is comprised of Council President Nicki Hines, ZoeAna Martinez, Randy Nelson, Mike Nevergall, Libby Olstad, Tina Russell, Pastor Angela, and Pastor Ingrid. The work of the task force is to discern a proposed allocation of the gain on sale, which amounted to approximately five million dollars. For the time being, the Church Council approved the investment of these funds with the ELCA Foundation and the ELCA Mission Investment Fund. The money is safe and accessible as needed.

In July, a congregational survey was distributed, and there were 123 respondents. The survey asked for input on a variety of areas—current areas of ministry at Holy Trinity, potential new areas of ministry, social justice issues, future planning, and how we define our “community.” Several common themes emerged from the survey results. Respondents commonly defined the “community” of Holy Trinity as Longfellow and the surrounding neighborhoods and saw importance in Holy Trinity continuing to be an active neighbor in that community. Respondents commonly had an interest in seeing some funds used for the direct benefit of the congregation, through new and enhanced programming or in capital investments in our physical spaces. Respondents commonly described an enduring commitment by the congregation to social justice issues, with racial justice, environmental justice, and affordable housing as the priorities. The survey also invited respondents to share general feedback about the process, and the task force members reviewed all survey responses.

As a next step, the task force hosted six focus group sessions in August and September, along with a number of one-on-one conversations with members who were not able to participate in a group. There were nearly 70 members who participated in a focus group or a one-on-one conversation. We sought to ensure that participants reflected overall congregational demographics. These focus group sessions provided a forum for task force members to dig more deeply into some of the common themes that emerged from the survey results and ask participants to respond with additional feedback.

In the initial planning work of the task force, we discussed the need to seek feedback from the wider Longfellow community—business owners, neighbors, elected officials, not-for-profit organizations, etc.

(Continued in next column)

## EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

### READINGS

Isaiah 5:1-7, Psalm 80:7-15;  
Philippians 3:4b-14; Matthew 21:33-46

### 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

### OCTOBER 4 “New Member Sunday”

The congregation is invited to boldly welcome new members today. We’ll hear from Bob Brose, Donna Goodlaxson, and Fiona Carson, 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.

**OCTOBER 11** Information will be available next week.

After George Floyd’s murder and in the aftermath of the uprising that followed, Holy Trinity has been thrust into the middle of these conversations in a way we never could have anticipated. Pastor Ingrid’s service as a founding board member for *Longfellow Rising* has brought Holy Trinity into close and regular contact with our neighbors in the last few months. Because of her work at the Lake Street Council, ZoeAna Martinez also brings a deep connection to and awareness of our immediate community. These connections and conversations will play an important and helpful role as we begin our discernment process in earnest.

Where do we go from here? Having completed the congregational survey and focus groups, the task force will begin the work of determining both the “what” and the “how” of stewarding these funds. The “what” will be a plan for the purpose of the funds, and the “how” will be a plan for the disbursement of the funds. The goal remains that a final proposal will be presented to the Church Council for approval at its January meeting and that, assuming Council approval, the same proposal will be presented to the full congregation at our annual meeting on January 31, 2021.

We intend to have at least one additional formal opportunity for response and comment by the congregation. Using the data and input we have collected, we will develop draft proposals and ask your help in refining and focusing them. In the meantime, we remain open to and interested in your feedback, ideas, and questions. We continue to monitor the Stepping Out in Faith email account ([steppingout@htlcmpls.org](mailto:steppingout@htlcmpls.org)) and encourage you to contact the task force to share your thoughts.

Just as the members of this congregation were faithful to invest in Trinity Apartments forty years ago, seeking to meet a need in the community, we now have a chance to step out in faith with this blessing of abundance and consider what role our congregation can play in building a more just future. Thank you for your continued prayers for and participation in this process!

## PARISH INFORMATION

### STUDENT LEARNERS FROM LUTHER SEMINARY

Holy Trinity will have two student learners joining us this year! Mollie (bio below) is eager to learn, help, teach, lead, and listen. She really wants a broad exposure to all aspects of congregational life, so if you have something that you'd like her to lead or if you have a meeting that she can attend, feel free to invite her. You'll meet the second student, Karleigh, soon.

My name is Mollie Varpness. I am from the Southwestern Minnesota Synod and am starting my first year as a Master of Divinity student at Luther Seminary. I was born and raised in Montevideo, Minnesota, and am the youngest of four. I attended Augustana University in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, where I received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication Studies and Religion. My hope for the future is to become an ordained minister in the ELCA.

Some of my hobbies include spending time outside, hiking, eating ice cream, and searching for new hobbies as I begin a new chapter in my life. Amidst COVID, my life has been filled with lots of change and excitement. In June, I found out I will become an aunt in December! In July, I was engaged to my fiancé, Derek. We are planning a wedding with hopes of it being this coming summer. In September, I moved to St. Paul to start my adventure at Luther Seminary.

During my time at Augustana, I had many great opportunities to serve the community through Campus Ministry at Augie and working as an intern at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls. These experiences have helped me in my journey of discernment and have grown my passion for ministry as well. I have discovered that I love being with people, learning from those around me, and seeing how those combine to help the world we share. My time at Our Savior's instilled passion for Social Justice, and I hope to explore that more, too. I hope to be challenged, gain the perspective of others, and grow into what Christ calls the church. The recent murder of George Floyd, the Uprising, and the long-ignored institutional racism that is within our country calls the church to be with the communities as they heal. I hope to listen to your stories and learn what it means to work together in difficult times such as these.

Thank you so much for opening up your congregation and church to help me learn. I am looking forward to what the semester will bring and to meeting you all.



### WORSHIP LINK FOR SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

The worship service for September 27 can be found here: <https://vimeo.com/462188560>. 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.

### HT RACIAL JUSTICE GROUP ENCOURAGES ALL TO VOTE

The election in November has profound implications for racial justice on both an individual basis and with regard to systemic issues. If you, family members, or friends are looking for ways to encourage others to vote, consider one of these resources:

- Faith in Minnesota (FIMN)—A political home for people of faith to act boldly and politically to create a more people-centered state of Minnesota. Includes training for volunteers. (<http://bit.ly/MetroTrainings>)
- Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light (MNIPL)—In partnership with faith communities aims to build transformative power and bring the lights of people's unique gifts to address climate change. Includes training for volunteers. ([mnipl.org](http://mnipl.org))
- Rock The Vote—Helps engage young voters in politics and building political power. ([rockthevote.org](http://rockthevote.org)).
- Kids Voting MN Network/Minnesota Civic Youth—A non-partisan, non-profit coalition helping K-12 kids learn about voting and participation in the political process. ([mncivicyouth.org](http://mncivicyouth.org)).

### DIALOGUES ON RACE SERIES SUMMARY DISCUSSION

The Racial Justice Committee and Doctrine of Discovery Task Force are grateful for the active participation of all who attended the sessions on the *Dialogues on Race* discussion series and invite them to attend a final debriefing about this series and to discuss what comes next. This session will be Wednesday, October 7, from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. Questions for discussion will be emailed in advance 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 980 7875 7504 and passcode 16667.

### MEALS ON WHEELS DELIVERY OCTOBER 19-23

Holy Trinity will deliver meals for South Minneapolis Meals on Wheels the week of October 19-23. Volunteers can choose to deliver meals for 1-5 days. Pick up meals at 11:15 a.m. at Nokomis Square delivery area (35th Ave. S., between 50th and 51st St.). Delivery takes about 1-1½ hours. To volunteer please contact Mary Engen ([engenmary@yahoo.com](mailto:engenmary@yahoo.com)). We have procedures to mitigate the COVID situation.