



THE COMMUNITY CHURCH

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

FAITH-BASED VALUES & NEIGHBOR-LOVE

Should I vote by mail? Should I vote before November 3 at Early Vote Center?

If I vote on Election Day, will I risk getting COVID-19?

When can I expect the election results?

The questions surrounding November 3 seem to grow more complicated by the day. *Christian Century* notes that at least 500 international observers are planning to watch over the complexities surrounding America's 2020 election. After years of monitoring other nation's elections, this is an interesting reversal of roles.

Yes, the questions abound. But, not the most basic question. Why vote? For the baptized people of God, voting is part of discipleship. Voting is a way we love our neighbor. Theologian Cynthia Moe-Lobeda notes that neighbor-love is the norm for followers of Jesus and it bears certain characteristics, including:

- Neighbor-love serves the well-being of those who are loved.
- Neighbor-love pertains to whomever my life touches directly or through social or ecological systems.
- Neighbor-love seeks justice.
- Neighbor-love is political.

Last June, the ELCA church council unanimously approved Government and Civic Engagement in the United States: Discipleship in a Democracy, providing more detailed characteristics of neighbor-love in the public square. The statement, proudly prompted by a 2019 memorial from the Minneapolis Area Synod, might be good devotional reading in these weeks before your November 3 decisions are made. Two brief quotes:

The ELCA holds to the biblical idea that God calls God's people to be active citizens and to ensure that everyone benefits from the good of government (Jeremiah 29:7, Romans 13:1-7).

*This church also strongly **affirms voting, guided by faith-based values**, as an exercise in citizenship.* (Emphases in bold were added by me.)

If you'd like even more background on what the ELCA recognizes as "faith-based values," you can turn to the [ELCA's 28 social statements and messages](#). To my mind, these are remarkable gems our church offers all who seek guidance from Scripture and Lutheran theology for what neighbor-love means in today's world.

Finally, I invite us to devote ourselves to consistent prayerfulness in the weeks before and after the 2020 election. These are difficult days. And, we pray for God's transformative power at work in the world so that all creation might flourish.

—Bishop Ann Svennungsen
[Minneapolis Area Synod Website](#)

TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

READINGS

Isaiah 45:1-7; Psalm 96:1-13;
1 Thessalonians 1:10; Matthew 22:15-22

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 18 "South Minneapolis Meals on Wheels Mary Engen, Board Development Committee

Holy Trinity has been an active member of South Minneapolis Meals on Wheels for several decades. Mary Engen will share the story of the organization and its current needs in this time of COVID-19.

OCTOBER 25 "Stewardship Sunday" Financial Stewardship Committee

We'll have the opportunity to share our hopes and dreams for congregational life in 2021, and you will be invited to share your financial commitments that will allow us to make them possible.

STAND DOWN & STAND BY

My people my people
Stand down and stand by
Stand down from your hatred
Stand right by my side
Stand down from your fear
Stand down from your greed
Stand by for all people
all people of need

My people my people
Your power is death
Your power and privilege take away breath
IT'S TIME TO STAND DOWN
IT'S TIME TO STAND BY
Right next to the ones
standing up for their lives



—Written by Nolan Gusdal,
Holy Trinity Building Maintenance,
following the September 29, 2020,
presidential debate

PARISH INFORMATION

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, 2, or up to 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. Procedures are in place to mitigate the COVID situation. To volunteer, contact Mary Engen (engenmary@yahoo.com).

STUDENT LEARNERS FROM LUTHER SEMINARY

Holy Trinity will have two student learners joining us this year! You met Mollie two weeks ago. Today you'll meet Karleigh. As with Mollie, Karleigh also 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.



My name is Karleigh Crepin, and I'm a first-year Master of Divinity Student at Luther Seminary.

I'm currently living in my hometown of Apple Valley, MN, but plan to move closer to school before next fall. I'm living with my parents, Tom and Kille, two cats, Binx (11) and Charlie (5), and dog Bo (11). I am a mas-

sive nerd and love anything Science Fiction! I'm a proud plant mama with seven different house plants surviving. Lastly, I enjoy all things crafty except glitter; I can't stand working with glitter.

I studied at Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa, for my undergraduate degrees in religion and social work. After college, I did missionary work through the ELCA's Young Adults in Global Mission from 2017-2018. It was the best year of my life so far! I served in Adelaide, Australia, and loved every minute I was there. I am still close with my host community and try to visit them every two years, if possible. Before seminary, I worked as the Director of Children's Ministry at Grace Lutheran Church in Apple Valley. Recently I left Grace Lutheran Church to pursue my degree fulltime while working a part-time job at Total Wine and More in Burnsville, Minnesota.

I will be working at Holy Trinity for two years as my beloved community placement. As beloved community scholars, our focus is dismantling systems of oppression by working at sites active in the fight against systems of oppression. I am jazzed to be a part of Holy Trinity and to help with the fight against systems of oppression. I can't wait to meet all of you soon!

DO YOU NEED HELP WITH AN ERRAND?

Let us know. Several members have volunteered to assist those in need. [Simply click here and fill out the form](#) or call the church office. Someone will contact you within 48 hours.

WORSHIP LINK FOR SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11

The worship service for October 11 can be found here: <https://vimeo.com/466921418>. 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.

FARE FOR ALL WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 3:30-5:30 P.M.

Fare For All returns to the parking lot at Holy Trinity on Wednesday, October 14, from 3:30-5:30 p.m. Drive by (only) to pick up your mega meat pack, a produce pack, and/or a hot buy. For more information, visit [Fare For All](#) the week of the distribution; you can see which hot buys will be offered.

Volunteers are needed to help package and load the groceries. Please email Julie Cahoy (jtcahoy@gmail.com) if you can help. Everyone needs to be masked, and volunteers will be socially distanced.

REPORT FROM PALESTINE ISRAEL WORKING GROUP

We had a dynamic forum Sunday with Betty McCollum's Chief of Staff, Bill Harper. He shared 2 pieces of legislation that Betty has authored: "Promoting Human Rights for Palestinian Children Living Under Israeli Military Occupation Act" ([HR2407](#)); and the "Israeli Annexation Non-Recognition Act" ([HR8050](#)). The recorded forum is [here](#).

The Palestine Israel Working Group invites all to join "Be the Key - #Hope Unlocked," a Bright Stars of Bethlehem fundraiser. Many are familiar with Rev. Mitri Raheb and his work with Dar al Kalima University in Bethlehem to educate the next generation in Palestine and keep their arts and culture strong through programs in art, communication, and culinary art. Supporting organizations like BSB is a way to take action on the Palestine Israel issue. The virtual event is October 24 at 7:00 p.m. Register [here!](#)

THANK YOU FROM JAYLANI HUSSEIN AND CAIR-MN

I am writing to thank you so very kindly for spear-heading Holy Trinity's donations of masks to CAIR-Minnesota this past summer; we have been able to make very good use of them all! We so appreciate the kinship and kind thoughts between our community and Holy Trinity's congregation, and we look forward to a continued and fruitful relationship.

CONCERNING PEOPLE

Donations to the **Coronavirus Assistance Fund, the Justice Fund, and Holy Trinity's General Fund** (for ongoing operating expenses) can be mailed to the church or given electronically (from your [bank account](#) or by [credit card](#)).