



# THE COMMUNITY CHURCH

On 31st Street between Minnehaha and 28th Avenues Minneapolis, MN 55406 • 612-729-8358 • office@htlcmpls.org • www.htlcmpls.org  
Ingrid C. A. Rasmussen, Angela T. Khabeb, and Doug Mork, Pastors

## STEPPING OUT IN FAITH UPDATE

Over the past eight months, the members of the Stepping Out in Faith task force have been in conversation with the Holy Trinity congregation, community leaders, and with one another to gather input about how best to steward the approximately \$5 million in proceeds from the sale of Trinity Apartments. Thank you once again to everyone who participated and provided input throughout this process. There is an abundance of meaningful ways in which these funds could be used, and we are grateful for your vision, your creativity, your resourcefulness, your selflessness, and your commitment.

From our conversations and deliberations, there were common themes that the task force agreed should be the overarching values to guide the stewardship of these funds. Those values are racial justice and inclusion, radical hospitality, capacity building, and that Holy Trinity is a church of and for the Longfellow community. Furthermore, we agreed that the use of the funds should follow three key principles: keep the funds local, build on existing partnerships, and leverage additional funding whenever possible.

With those values and principles in mind, we have developed a proposal that allocates percentages of the available funds into four broad categories:

- 1) **Sharing from our Abundance** – In the spirit of tithing, we propose that 15% of the funds would be used for immediate gifts to a limited number of local organizations with which we already have established relationships. These funds would be given with no strings attached and no expectation that Holy Trinity would have any say in how the funds are used. These gifts would focus on racial, economic, social, and environmental justice, and the funds would be given away in early 2021.
- 2) **Our Shared Community** – The murder of George Floyd and the uprising that followed changed a great deal for the entire Longfellow neighborhood. We propose that 45% of the funds would be used in walking with our neighbors, as the future of the community is created. The timing of the distribution will be determined in partnership with other leaders and organizations in the neighborhood. Priorities would include racial justice and accessible, affordable housing, and our hope is that this significant allocation would be used to leverage other public and private resources.
- 3) **Our Shared Home** – At one of the first task force meetings, Pastor Ingrid shared a vision of Holy Trinity as an unofficial community center for the Longfellow neighborhood, without knowing what would transpire in the months ahead. We propose that 25% of the funds be used for projects to update and improve our building, benefitting the congregation and the wider community. Our hope and expectation is that this portion of the funds will be supplemented by financial commitments from member households of the congregation.

## TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

### READINGS

Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18; Psalm 90:1-12;  
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11; Matthew 25:14-30

### ADULT FORUM

SUNDAY, 9:30 AM

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

Meeting ID: 858 5687 1594 / Password: 317879

#### NOVEMBER 15 “In Search of Affordable Housing”

Joe Hesla, who works for a coalition of faith communities, neighborhood associations, and non-profits, will share his experience in working on issues of rent control and affordable housing.

#### NOVEMBER 22 “Reflections on Community Ministry”

**Rev. Dr. Tracey Gibson, St. James AME Church**

The Rev. Dr. Tracey Gibson’s appointment as pastor of Mother St. James in September 2019 has ushered in an era of spiritual growth and vitality. “Mother” Saint James’s first pastor with a doctorate, Rev. Dr. Tracey Gibson is a change agent and has inspired the church to come together and reflect on its history, as it strives to keep moving forward.

- 4) **Our Shared Humanity** – There are many ongoing ways in which we hope these funds will continue to impact our congregation and our community. Members of the church staff are regularly asked by neighbors for help meeting short-term needs for housing, transportation, food, legal aid, etc., and we want them to meet those needs abundantly. You asked for an investment in the children and youth of our congregation and for increasing our intergenerational programming, and we want to invest in those programs abundantly. We want to be a church that throws open its doors to celebrate with its neighbors, in good times and bad, and we want to celebrate abundantly. We propose that 15% of the funds be used for meeting these needs of our community, now and into the future.

Where do we go from here? We will host a congregational Zoom town hall meeting on **Thursday, December 10, at 7:00 p.m.** You are strongly encouraged to attend and learn more about the proposed allocations, hear the thinking behind the funding categories, and ask questions of the task force. From there, a revised plan will be presented to the Church Council for its approval, and finally, the congregation will be asked for final approval at the annual meeting on January 31, 2021. In the meantime, if you have specific feedback or questions for the task force, please send them by email to [steppingout@htlcmpls.org](mailto:steppingout@htlcmpls.org).

—Mike Nevergall, for the Stepping Out in Faith Task Force

## PARISH INFORMATION

### BOOK REVIEW BY ARLENE HELVIG

As our racial justice journey and education at Holy Trinity continues, several congregants tackled Isabel Wilkerson's book, *Caste*. It is not an easy read!

This Pulitzer Prize-winning author tells true stories to illustrate a long history of dehumanization of individuals deemed "lower class" in our country. Wilkerson states that before

there was a United States of America, there was the caste system, born in colonial Virginia. This system was imbedded into the colonial way of life as a means for survival and prosperity of the colonists. The control and dominance of a "lower class" was eventually studied by the Nazis as a means of casting out the Jews in Germany.

This book is an excellent tool to help our understanding of racism and how entrenched it is in the moral, social, and economic fiber of our country. This book is like a textbook with a heart and my heart was broken as I was made so keenly aware of our country's numerous social injustices and how far we have to go to right so many wrongs.

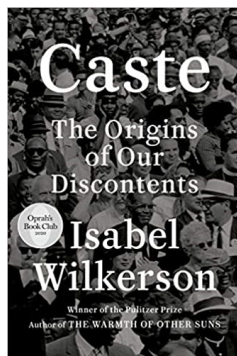
### ADULT FORUM RECORDING FROM NOVEMBER 8

Sunday's forum with Dr. Udupa from Longfellow High School can be viewed here: [vimeo.com/477215348](https://vimeo.com/477215348).

### CONCERNING PEOPLE

**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. 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, NOVEMBER 8

The worship video for Sunday, November 8, can be found here: <https://vimeo.com/476648244>. 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.

### ADVENT BOX DELIVERY NOVEMBER 15-21

The worship staff have created a special surprise this Advent. Holy Trinity elves will deliver an Advent box to every active member household between November 15-21. If you know you'll be away that week, please call or email the office and let Pam know (office@htlcmpls.org/612.729.8358). If you live in an apartment building or condo, please let the office know the easiest way to ensure you receive your box of goodies.

### OPTING OUT OF PAPER ENVELOPES

If you offer a financial commitment (either by paper card or by using [this link](#)), you have the option of opting in (having the envelopes mailed to your home) or opting out (for those of you who prefer to give online). Thanks for the suggestion, and thanks to member Carol Kelly for helping us find a more flexible alternative.

### THANKSGIVING DINNER (TOGETHER/APART)

Will you be on your own on Thanksgiving? The HTLC Nurturing Relationships Committee invites you to be part of a virtual group (via Zoom) for connection and conversation at 3:00 p.m. on Thanksgiving Day while enjoying our holiday meal together.

The committee is pleased to offer a turkey dinner to those who will be alone on the holiday. The meal will be delivered to you from Crossroads Deli at no charge, fully cooked and ready to reheat. Please contact Nancy Madich (651.788.0064/[nam2233@msn.com](mailto:nam2233@msn.com)) by Friday, November 20, to reserve your meal. Zoom details will be sent prior to November 26.

### VIRTUAL WALK TO END HUNGER

South Minneapolis Meals on Wheels will again be participating in the Walk to End Hunger on Thanksgiving morning. This year, however, the walk will be virtual. Metro Meals on Wheels will be matching all funds raised by our local organization. Please consider "walking" or donating by going to <http://bit.ly/SMMOW>. You can donate to the "Team" or to one of the walkers. Mary Engen is listed as one of the walkers. The funding will help to continue delivering hot meals to our clients, updating our equipment, and possibly expanding our program. Contact Mary Engen ([engenmary@yahoo.com](mailto:engenmary@yahoo.com)) if you need more information.

### LONGFELLOW STUDENTS NEED WINTER OUTERWEAR

We are collecting outdoor winter wear for Longfellow moms and their children (children's outerwear to fit babies through size 6). Wool socks are also needed for the moms. Donations can be dropped off at Zoe Martínez's porch. It is always open. Zoe will store the donations until they are needed by a student. Do not drop things off at the school; they do not have space to store the items. Thank you so much for helping to keep the moms and their children warm this winter.

The holiday giving with Longfellow School has been rescheduled for Mother's Day.