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

SHARING FROM OUR ABUNDANCE

At the annual meeting in January, we approved the Stepping Out in Faith proposal. The Stepping Out in Faith Committee was tasked with recommending ways to disburse the funds we received as a result of the Trinity Apartments sale. The committee decided to give away 15% of the funds (\$810,000) to 8 different organizations whose work focuses on racial, economic, and social justice. Seven of the eight organizations will receive unrestricted donations of \$75,000. The organizations will be showcased in upcoming Community Church Newsletters.

Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)

The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), America's largest Islamic civil liberties and advocacy group has 35 offices and chapters nationwide and in Canada. Its mission is to enhance the understanding of Islam, encourage dialogue, protect civil liberties, empower American Muslims, and build coalitions that promote justice and mutual understanding. The demand for their services has grown tremendously. From restrictions placed on Muslims to practice their religion, to profiling and discrimination stemming from a lack of understanding of Islam, the need for CAIR in Minnesota is great. The proof is reflected in the dramatic increase in civil rights cases by 250% from 2007 to 2013. CAIR-Minnesota strives to ensure that Muslims in Minnesota enjoy the same protections that all Americans have.

Enhancing the Understanding of Islam

CAIR-MN actively engages with the media to ensure that a fair and accurate portrayal of Islam and Muslims is presented to the American public. This is accomplished through media appearances, press conferences, opinion editorials and letters to the editor. In addition, CAIR-Minnesota provides training to community members, media professionals, and employers. Media professionals are engaged in discussions about working with the Muslim community, with the purpose of helping to create an environment where fair and balanced journalism can thrive. The Muslim community is educated on working with the media to assert their rights and respond with confidence when met with requests for interviews.

Promoting Justice

Protecting the rights of Minnesota Muslims is at the core of CAIR-Minnesota's mission. They work vigorously to educate on behalf of community members experiencing discrimination and remedy cases through in-person negotiations, from filing charges of discrimination, letter writing, and referrals to their attorney referral network. Cases range from employment, public accommodation and school discrimination, to hate crimes and governmental religious/racial profiling.

TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD

READINGS

2 Kings 2:1-12; Psalm 50:1-6;
2 Corinthians 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9

ADULT FORUM

Login at zoom.us or call 312-626-6799 or click [here](#)
Meeting ID: 858 5687 1594 / Password: 317879

To view the recorded Adult Forum from February 7, [click here](#).

SUNDAY, 9:30 A.M.

FEBRUARY 14 "Bridge of Reconciliation" Pastor Richard Coleman

The Rev. Richard Coleman, Pastor of Wayman AME Church in Minneapolis and Executive Director of Hope United Community Development Corporation (HUCDC) will share information about the Bridge of Reconciliation, a growing movement of racial healing in our cities.

SUNDAY, 10:30 A.M.

FEBRUARY 21 "Palestine Perspective" Pastors Gabi and Meghan Alabiouni

Pastors Gabi Alabiouni and Meghan Alabiouni will present the Adult Forum via Zoom at **10:30 a.m. (note the time change)** from their home in Jerusalem where they serve as ELCA missionaries. They will speak to us about their work, life under Israeli occupation, and the effect of the pandemic on the Palestinian people.

"CAIR's vision is to be a leading advocate for justice and mutual understanding."

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PARISH INFORMATION

AARP TAX AIDE AT HOLY TRINITY

AARP Tax Aide will again be available at Holy Trinity to provide assistance with 2020 tax preparation for seniors and low-income taxpayers. Because of COVID 19 protocols, the process will be different. Here are the steps to take:

- Make an appointment to come to Holy Trinity to have your tax documents scanned. To make an appointment, have your 2019 tax return available, and call between 9:00-11:00 a.m. and 1:00-3:00 p.m.:
 - ◇ Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays call **763-245-2885**
 - ◇ Tuesdays and Thursdays call **612-203-1697**
 - ◇ **DO NOT call the church office.** They are unable to make appointments.
- Prior to your appointment, please pick up and complete an Interview Sheet which is available outside the east (cul-de-sac) door at Holy Trinity.
- Bring the completed interview sheet, your tax documents, and a mask to your appointment. Arrive at Holy Trinity no more than five minutes before your scheduled appointment. Masks are required and physical distancing of at least six feet will be enforced. A Tax Aide volunteer will review your Interview sheet and scan your tax documents. You will then be able to leave.
- Your tax return will be prepared at a later date using the online documents that were scanned. Once your tax return is completed, you will be called to set up an appointment to pick it up and sign the standard release form. Your return will then be filed electronically.

WORSHIP SERVICE FROM FEBRUARY 7, 2021

The worship service for February 7, 2021, can be viewed by clicking [here](#).

MN TASK FORCE ON MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS WOMEN/RELATIVES

"Indigenous women, girls, and two-spirit people are far more likely to experience violence, be murdered, or go missing, compared to other demographic groups in Minnesota," states a new Minnesota Legislative Task Force report. For the past several years, Holy Trinity church members have marched in the annual walk calling attention to this terrible problem. This year the event will be virtual. You are invited to read the [report](#) and participate in a portion of the four-day event. Learn more and RSVP [here](#).

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO BE EMAILED

If you prefer to have your financial statements sent by mail, please contact financial administrator Kaia Ellis (payables@htlcmpls.org / 612-729-8358).

REPARATIONS: AN INTRODUCTION AND A CHALLENGE

Sponsored by the Racial Justice and Doctrine of Discovery groups, this discussion series will be offered Wednesdays, January 20 through February 10, from 7:00 to 8:15 p.m. via Zoom. Reparations for racial injustice involves much more than possible financial compensation for past deeds. One of the first steps is "truth telling" and hearing the stories of the victims of racial crimes. Participants will have short podcasts or articles to review before the meetings and guests from the congregation or community will present and facilitate discussions. This is the start of several series on reparations this year which we hope will include planning for actions we can take as individuals or as communities.

To view the recording of the session from Wednesday, February 3, click [here](#) and enter the password ^+ziq*T9

The fourth and final session of the series, *Reparations from a Christian Perspective*, will be held on **Wednesday, February 10, at 7:00 p.m.** via Zoom. Rev. Jim Bear Jacobs will be the presenter. Rev. Jim Bear is the Program Director for Racial Justice at the Minnesota Council of Churches (MCC) and a member of the Stockbridge-Munsee Mohican Nation. He will talk with us about reparations with a focus on our responsibility as Christians, as well as share the bold actions MCC is taking around reparations in our community. You can participate in this presentation via [Zoom](#). (Click the link to attend, or call 312-626-6799: Member ID 838 8193 4677, Passcode 830967.) Prior to the session, participants are encouraged to read:

"A Christian Call for Reparations," by Rev. Kelly Brown Douglas <https://sojo.net/magazine/july-2020/christian-call-case-slavery-reparations-kelly-brown-dougl> or

"Reparations Is a Spiritual Issue" by Nibs Stroupe <https://www.christiancentury.org/article/opinion/reparations-spiritual-issue>

VIRTUAL LOBBY DAY THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11

Minnesota is [not on track](#) to reach its greenhouse gas reduction goals. As people of faith, we have a responsibility to make sure bold climate action is a priority for our Minnesota legislators in 2021.

That's why Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light and the Caring for Creation Working Group invite you to a statewide virtual Lobby Day on Thursday, February 11. From the comfort of our own homes, you can join with our partners at the 100% Campaign to talk with your state legislators about an equitable, clean energy future for all. The day begins at 9:00 a.m. with a training; virtual legislator meetings will take place throughout the day. [RSVP here](#).

MESSAGE FROM THE LINK CEO (& HT MEMBER) BETH HOLGER

During Human Trafficking Awareness Month (January), we were very happy to announce that the release of the new Hennepin County [Safe Harbor Protocols](#). It has been a truly amazing community- and youth-led process addressing barriers, gaps, and ways to improve our response for youth experiencing sexual exploitation and/or trafficking.