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Ingrid C. A. Rasmussen, Angela T. Khabebe, 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. One of these organizations is Exodus Lending.

### Exodus Lending

When a payday store opened near Holy Trinity in 2011, the congregation took notice. Holy Trinity decided to take a stand with their fellow community members facing economic crisis. Exodus Financial Services, known as Exodus Lending, was founded as a first-of-its-kind nonprofit to solve the payday loan problem. Exodus Lending is the only nonprofit dedicated solely to helping Minnesotans get out of payday lending debt.

**What They Do:** They get Minnesotans out of payday loan debt and back on track financially by enrolling and supporting them in a 0% interest refinance program, lending up to \$1,500 to qualified participants.

**Why They Do It:** They envision a world where all people are free from the cycle of debt caused by predatory lenders. They seek lasting change for the individuals and families, for financial institutions, and for our society.

**2020 Program Accomplishments:** In 2020, Exodus Lending paid off more than \$70,000 worth of predatory payday, title, and installment loans for 84 Minnesotans. In doing so, they estimate saving them about \$220,000 in interest and fees that may otherwise have been paid to predatory lenders over a year's entrapment.

\*\*\*Executive director Sara Nelson-Pallmeyer will join MPR News at **11:00 a.m. Tuesday, February 23**, to discuss the issue of predatory lending in Minnesota and Exodus Lending's work to stop the debt trap. Tune in and be a part of the conversation!

To learn more about Exodus Lending, watch this [video](#), visit [exoduslending.org](http://exoduslending.org), and [subscribe to their newsletter](#).

### SWAHILI WORDS FOR TODAY

Another quarantine opportunity: Learn some Swahili words! Pastor Andrea will teach us some common Swahili words and phrases.

Hello (informal): **Jambo** (pron. "Jom'-bo")

Welcome: **Karibu** (pron. "Car-ee'-boo")

Thank you: **Asante** (pron. "A-san'-tay")

## SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

### READINGS

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Psalm 22:23-31;  
Romans 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38

### 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 21, [click here](#).

**SUNDAY, 10:00 A.M.**

**FEBRUARY 28**

**"All Creation Sings"**

**David Sims, Cantor**

Hand in hand with *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, *All Creation Sings* invites us to expand our prayer and song, joining our voices with the praise, and sighs, of the whole creation God so marvelously made. **Join us at 10:00 a.m. (note the new time)**. To see a preview of *All Creation Sings*, click [here](#).

**SUNDAY, 9:30 A.M.**

**MARCH 7 and 14**

**"Stories of Scripture"**

**Pastor Emmy Kelger**

Emmy Kegler is a pastor, author, and speaker called to ministry at the margins of the church, especially among LGBTQIA+ Christians. She serves as pastor of Grace Lutheran Church in Northeast Minneapolis. She is also the founder and editor of the Queer Grace Encyclopedia ([queergrace.com](http://queergrace.com)), a curated collection of online resources around LGBTQ+ life and faith. She lives in Saint Paul, Minnesota, and enjoys biking, board games, books, and spending time with her wife Michelle and their two dogs and cat.

Her first book, *One Coin Found: How God's Love Stretches to the Margins*, tells her story as a queer Christian called to ordained ministry and how it formed her relationship with Scripture. As a queer woman who grew up in both conservative Evangelical and progressive Protestant churches, she knows too well how Scripture can be used to wound and exclude. And yet, the stories of Scripture continue to captivate and inspire her—both as a person of faith and as a pastor to a congregation. So she set out to fall in love with the Bible, wrestling with the stories inside, where she met a God who continues to seek us out—appearing again and again as a voice, a presence, and a promise.

## 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 21, 2021

The worship service for February 21, 2021, can be viewed by clicking [here](#).

### MINNESOTA VACCINE CONNECTOR

The Minnesota COVID-19 Vaccine Connector is a tool that helps Minnesotans find out when, where, and how to get a COVID-19 vaccine. After you fill out a simple form, the Vaccine Connector will alert you when you are eligible to receive a vaccine; connect you to resources to schedule a vaccine appointment; and notify you if there are vaccine opportunities in your area. Sign up at [mn.gov/covid19/vaccine/connector/](https://mn.gov/covid19/vaccine/connector/)

### CONCERNING PEOPLE

Please don't hesitate to contact us with pastoral care emergencies (Church office: 612.729.8358; Pastor Ingrid: 612.875.6679; Pastor Angela: 612.248.9121; Pastor Doug: 612.310.5752). We will do our best to care for you from a distance.

### LUTHER'S SMALL CATECHISM FOR ADULTS

Bishop Jon Anderson of the Southwestern Minnesota Synod of the ELCA has prepared six (so far) videos for adults to learn about—or to review—Luther's Small Catechism. Click [here](#) to find the videos

### NATIONAL LUTHERAN CHOIR VIRTUAL HYMN FESTIVAL SUNDAY, MARCH 14, 4:00 P.M. AT NLCA.COM

**Hope Lives!** As we approach the one-year anniversary of the world shutting down due to the pandemic, we are slowly finding glimmers of hope: hope that vaccines will allow us to come back into the daylight of life and interactions with others!

On Sunday, March 14, at 4:00 p.m., join the National Lutheran Choir and guest artists, the Keith Hampton Singers & Friends, in singing well-known hymns that highlight the joy of an ever-growing hope, and new hymns that speak to our time. All are welcome and invited to sing with joy *together* ...as all the world in wonder echoes shalom."

This online presentation is FREE for all. Find it at [NCLA.com](https://nlca.com).

### WEDNESDAYS DURING LENT

*The Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in. Isaiah 58:11-12*

These beautiful words point to our theme for Lent this year, *Emerging Anew*. Through the season we invite you to consider your hopes and dreams, God's hopes and dreams, and maybe those glimpses of intersection, sparking our imagination for the world that can be. Wednesdays in Lent we will again use Holden Evening Prayer. In addition to the liturgy and music, speakers will share reflections on this *Emerging Anew* theme during each of the Wednesday services. This week's service includes a powerful reflection from member Sandra Hisakuni. The link will be emailed on Wednesday.

### LENTEN SUPPERS

In past years, we would cater our Lenten meals from local restaurants, but this year we hope you will join us in individually patronizing some of the restaurants on Lake Street that have struggled to hold on through the pandemic and the uprising that followed George Floyd's killing. [Click here](#) for a list of local restaurants that would welcome your business.

### BECOME A MEMBER OF HOLY TRINITY

We at Holy Trinity believe that community is integral to faith, which is why we invite interested persons to consider membership in this congregation. If you or someone you know is interested in formalizing your relationship with this community, please let one of the pastors know, or contact the office ([office@htlcmpls.org](mailto:office@htlcmpls.org)). Several households have already indicated their interest in becoming members. The Spirit works in amazing ways, even during this period of physical separation.