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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 St. James AME.

ST. JAMES AME

In 1863, the year of the Emancipation Proclamation, St. James African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church was born as an outgrowth of house to house prayer meetings among the free men and women of African descent residing in the city known then as St. Anthony Falls. St. James AME was the first African American-founded Church in the State of Minnesota.

The congregation's first house of worship was a church at 6th Ave. S.E. and 2nd St. under the leadership of Rev. W. Hedgeman as its first pastor. A storefront location followed, with a new church erected at 1st Ave. S.E. and 2nd St. By the 1880s, St. Anthony Falls had been changed to the City of Minneapolis and had expanded to include both sides of the Mississippi River. The congregation next moved across the river to a storefront location in Minneapolis. In 1892, the congregation built a beautiful red brick structure at 8th Ave. and 4th St. However, the property was bordered by Rock Island Railroad and was crowded out by rail expansion. During the next decades, the congregation moved through a succession of rented properties. In 1918 they purchased a building at 314 15th Ave. S. This would be the home of "Mother" St. James until the expansion of the interstate highway system, which forced another relocation. The church was sold in 1956 and the congregation subsequently occupied space at the Pillsbury Settlement House.

In 1958 the current structure was built at 3600 Snelling Ave. South. In 2003, the Rev. Marchelle Hallman, the first woman appointed pastor of an African Methodist Episcopal Church in the state of Minnesota, was appointed pastor of "Mother" St. James A.M.E. Church. "Mother," acknowledging the fact that all the other AME churches in the state are an outgrowth of this congregation. Rev. Michael Gonzales was appointed to Saint James in 2015. A strong advocate for equality, Rev. Gonzales led St. James in partnering with political and other faith-based organizations in the areas of fair housing and the providing for the needs of the homeless.

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. The church is still a praying church that is committed to providing the much needed spiritual leadership in the cities.

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

READINGS

Numbers 21:4-9; Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22;
Ephesians 2:1-10; John 3:14-21

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 March 7, [click here](#).

SUNDAYS, 9:30 A.M.

MARCH 14 "Stories of Scripture" Pastor Emmy Kegler

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](#)), 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.

MARCH 21 "Reflections on Justice Activities" Mary and Bernard Glover

Mary and Bernard Glover, members of Wayman AME Church, will reflect on their involvement in justice activities.

WORSHIP SERVICE FROM MARCH 7, 2021

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

SOUTH MINNEAPOLIS IN THE NEWS

[Longfellow Rising: The Rebirth of Minneapolis' Epicenter of Unrest](#)

PARISH INFORMATION

STEPPING OUT IN FAITH WORKING GROUPS

Two sections of the Stepping Out in Faith approved plan require additional working groups. "Our Shared Community" will determine how Holy Trinity collaborates with Longfellow Rising and other community partners in the rebuilding of the community surrounding the church. "Our Shared Home" will determine the priority and timing of capital improvements to the church building and grounds. Both groups will work collaboratively with the Holy Trinity Church Council. The time commitment for each group will depend upon the decisions made but is not expected to extend beyond early 2022.

If you would like to be considered for one of these working groups, a short application can be found [here](#). Please complete and return it by **March 12, 2021**. If you have questions about the Stepping Out work or would like to return a completed application, please send an email (steppingout@htlcmpls.org).

MINNEAPOLIS JUST DEEDS PROJECT

The City of Minneapolis has launched a new initiative providing Minneapolis homeowners with the opportunity to learn about, acknowledge, and discharge racial covenants recorded against their properties. The City's [Just Deeds Project](#), led by the City Attorney's Office, will allow people to reclaim their homes as equitable spaces.

Racial covenants were binding documents recorded against a property's title, which prohibited all future owners of the property from selling it, renting it, or allowing it to be used by people of certain races or ethnicities. [Mapping Prejudice](#), a research project based in the Borchert Map Library at the University of Minnesota, has compiled a map of over 8,000 properties in Minneapolis with racial covenants.

Through the City's Just Deeds Project, Minneapolis homeowners can acknowledge and disclaim the racial covenants recorded against their properties by recording a discharge form against their property title. The City Attorney's Office staff will assist homeowners in completing this process free of charge. Hennepin County has also waived its typical fees associated with this process. **Participation in the City's program will be first-come, first-served**, subject to staffing availability. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis.

Learn more about the Just Deeds Project by visiting the [City's website](#) or by emailing JustDeedsProject@minneapolismn.gov.

RISE BY THE RIVER TO STOP LINE 3

March 11, 2021, 3:00 p.m.

As soon as the spring melt comes to the rivers of northern Minnesota, Enbridge is poised to drill their Line 3 pipeline under the headwaters of the Mississippi. With the water about to flow, we need people and communities of faith and spiritual practice to come together NOW.

Join the Caring for Creation Team as they gather with others at the Scenic Overlook park in St. Paul (615 Mississippi River Blvd.), overlooking the river for rally, songs, and prayers to stop Line 3. The event is family friendly. Please RSVP [here](#).

Bishop Ann Svennungsen has published a deeply thoughtful [statement](#) on the Enbridge Line 3 tar sands oil pipeline. It references the long history of exploitation of indigenous people, the Doctrine of Discovery, and the ELCA social statement on "Sufficient, Sustainable Livelihood for All." Please read her statement and write an email of support for her courageous stand (a.svennungsen@mpls-synod.org).

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*. 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. The link will be emailed on Wednesday.

MEALS ON WHEELS DELIVERY MARCH 22-26

Holy Trinity will deliver meals for South Minneapolis Meals on Wheels the week of March 22-26. Volunteers are needed to deliver meals for 1-5 days of the week. Pick up meals at Nokomis Square Condominiums (50th St. and 35th Ave. S.) at 11:15 a.m. Delivery takes about 1 ½ hrs. If you have not delivered before and would like to try it out, Mary will arrange for you to "follow" another experienced driver to learn how it works. To volunteer or if you have questions, contact Mary Engen engenmary@yahoo.com / 612-716-6338).

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). The Spirit works in amazing ways, even during this period of physical separation.

MINNEAPOLIS FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES MICRO GRANTS

Beginning March 15, the Foundation will accept applications for micro grants of \$2,500 to \$5,000 from its Fund for Safe Communities. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis, with decisions communicated to applicants within roughly two weeks. Click [here](#) for more information.