



On 28th Avenue between Lake and 31st Streets Minneapolis, MN 55406 • 612-729-8358 • office@htlcmpls.org • www.htlcmpls.org  
WORSHIP SERVICES: 8:45 and 11:00 am • CHURCH SCHOOL: 9:45 am • Jay Carlson, Pastor

## GOD OF ALL THE NATIONS

During the month of July, the adult forums taking place between services will examine a number of church-state questions, seeking to understand more clearly the relationship between church and state. These forums promise to be lively and provocative, and we hope you'll make your way down to the library between services this month to join in the conversation.

There's one church-state question that has been on my mind this Fourth of July weekend: Is it appropriate for politicians to end every speech with, "God bless America"? We have so come to expect to hear that line at the end of a major speech that for a politician to omit it would be shocking and politically dangerous.

Still, I'm troubled by this phrase, "God bless America." Certainly we should ask for God's blessing, but "God bless America" seems to imply that we expect God to be on our side only, or that we hope for God's blessing for our own country over and against others. Just what are we to make of this prayer, "God bless America"?

In 2 Kings 5:1-19a, we hear the story of the prophet Elisha and his encounter with Naaman the leper. What's most shocking about this story is that Naaman, the army general of an enemy nation, receives healing from the God of Israel. It appears that God is ready to heal anyone who will call out for help, be they Israelites or highly-placed officials in the enemy camp. To anyone who thinks that God exists solely to bless the people of Israel and to destroy their enemies, this text stands as a challenge. God's activity is complex and doesn't always match our expectations.

It is a good thing to ask God's blessing on America. We should give thanks for the ways our country has been blessed in the past and for the ways in which our country has been a blessing to others. And we should ask for God's continued blessing. But to ask God's blessing on our country to the exclusion of others, or to expect that God will indeed bless us over other nations? The God we worship here in America is God of all the nations, a God who wills abundant life for all peoples and every land.

The Naaman story reveals that God's grace is bigger than we can imagine. We should never presume to count anyone out by limiting God's grace to any one nation or people. God is not bound to our expectations and assumptions but rather makes a habit of overturning them. The God we have come to know in our scriptures is one who cannot be used to advance our own interests. This is a God who defies every attempt to make God exclusively ours. This is a border-crossing God, one who refuses to stay within the boundaries we have drawn. So when we pray "God bless America," let us do so knowing that God wills blessings for all nations and all peoples, that God's grace is so deep and so broad as to transcend any limitations we finite humans could presume to impose.

- Javen Swanson, Intern Pastor

## SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

*To love the lord your God with all your heart, soul, strength, and mind is to reflect God's mercy in responding to one's neighbor.*



### LESSONS

Amos 7:7-11

Psalm 82

Colossians 1:1-14

Luke 10:25-37

### SUNDAY ADULT FORUM

9:55 am — In the library

#### July 11 "Issues of Church and State—Part II" Randy Nelson, Holy Trinity member

The second forum will explore the question of how the church can appropriately support its military personnel and still reject war as a preferred vehicle for peace. Those who have the July, 2010 issue of "The Lutheran" might want to review its contents before the discussion.

#### July 18 "Issues of Church and State—Part III" Javen Swanson, Intern Pastor

The third forum will explore the question of whether clergy should be authorized to authenticate civil marriages. In other countries, only government officials may sign marriage licenses; in the U.S., clergy are recognized as agents of the state for the purpose of solemnizing marriages. Should this be so?

### WAYS TO SERVE

*Call the church office at 612-729-8358 to volunteer or for more information.*

Volunteers are needed to bake communion bread. Please call the church office if you can help either occasionally or regularly. Recipe will be provided.

We also need volunteers to help with funerals. Please call if you can bake a cake or help serve at funeral luncheons.

### SPECIAL GUEST MUSICIANS

Please join us for worship on Sunday, July 11th to hear the Ayana String Quartet with members Dave Knapp, Bill Scott, Rachel Rogness and Ute Zahn.

### RAIN GARDEN FACT

*Did you know...* that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has named storm water runoff as our nation's biggest water quality threat?

**CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEB SITE**

The Holy Trinity web site has been redesigned—go to [htlcmpls.org](http://htlcmpls.org) and see the new look.

**PHOTO MAKEUP DAY**

The photography sessions for our pictorial directory have been completed. If you were not able to schedule a time to have your photo taken, there will be a makeup photo session on Thursday, July 22, 2:00-9:20 pm, at Zion Lutheran Church, 128 W. 33rd Street, Minneapolis. Call Deanna at 612-824-1017 to make an appointment.

**SUMMER MUSIC OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH**

Register by emailing or calling the church office (612-729-8358).

- July 20-22, our Summer Handbell Workshop will take place from 10 AM to 12:30 PM for youth in grades 6-12, who have music-reading skills gained from playing another instrument. Come learn the technique and language of ringing. *Swing, shake, damp, pluck, and martellato* your way to fun! Space is limited to 11 ringers, so register early.
- August 2-5, we predict a *100% Chance of Rain* - a jazz musical about Noah and the flood . It will help children and youth highlight the construction of our new rain garden in a unique way. We'll rehearse each day from 9:30 AM to noon and present our performance on Thurs, Aug 5<sup>th</sup>, at 7 PM. Open to singers/actors in grades 1-8. Scripts will be available at the end of July for those who are interested in a major singing or speaking role.

**EXPLORING THE CITY**

Middle School youth are invited to come and have fun exploring some interesting green places in the city, such as: Friends of the Mississippi River (spray paint storm drain covers), Target Field (the greenest baseball field in America), and J.D. Rivers Garden (working in an organic vegetable garden). Participants will discover new ways people are caring for creation in Minneapolis. This event is free of charge and lunches are included. July 12-14, 10am-2pm.

**IT'S NOT TOO LATE**

There's still time to enroll in the new summer program for preschoolers, happening at nearby Christ Church Lutheran during the month of July. Each week has its own theme and staff. For more information, contact the church office or Stephanie Gustafson at 612-721-6611 or online at [www.christchurchluth.org/preschool](http://www.christchurchluth.org/preschool). Christ Church Lutheran is a member of the Longfellow Lutheran Parish.

**THE COMMUNITY CHURCH USPS 777-060**  
 POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Community Church, c/o Holy Trinity 2730 E. 31 St. Mpls., MN. 55406. Published weekly by Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. 612-729-8358. Periodicals postage paid at Minneapolis, Minnesota. Pastor Jay Carlson

PARISH EVENTS July 11- July 17		
Sunday	8:45, 11 am	Worship Service of Holy Communion
	9:55 am	Adult Forum
	2:00 pm	Swahili worship service
Monday	10:00-2:00 pm	Exploring the City
	6:00 pm	Exec Committee
	6:00 pm	Outreach Committee meeting @ El Norteno
	7:00 pm	Chris Ed, Financial Stewardship, Nurturing Fellowship Committees meet
Tuesday	10:00-2:00 pm	Exploring the City
Wednesday	10:00 am	Lectionary Text Study
	10:00-2:00 pm	Exploring the City
	2:00-7:00 pm	Loaves and Fishes at Holy Rosary
Thursday	9:00 am	Opportunity sale pricing

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS July 11, 2010			
8:45 AM		11:00 AM	
Jay Carlson	<b>Preacher</b>	Jay Carlson	
Randy Nelson	<b>Celebrant</b>	Gary Sartain	
Ian Doss-Smith	<b>Crucifer</b>	Cliff Brown	
		<b>Acolytes</b>	Mason Helmelt, Kevin Kane
		<b>Cantor</b>	Adult choir
Rick Liedholm	<b>Liturgist</b>	Karen Batdorf	
Joyce Peterson, Lyle Steinfeldt	<b>Communion</b>	Mark Holm, Linda McMahon	
Bob Peschiutta, Doug Stolba	<b>Ushers</b>	Nicholas Ellison, Deb Sodt,	
Chris Engen		Lynda/Dennis Nordholm	
Gerry/Linda Berglin	<b>Altar Guild</b>	Nan Madich, Ingrid Phillips	
Kerry Bosu	<b>Nursery</b>	Matt & Kevin Kane, Kerry Bosu	
Liz Blood, Joyce Peterson	<b>Coffee Servers</b>	Connie Adams	
Pam Blomgren, Annie Hines	<b>Counters</b>	Cathryn Olson, Gary Johnson	
		<b>Closer</b>	Cliff Brown

**LOAVES & FISHES - July 14**

Holy Trinity is responsible for cooking and serving a meal at the Loaves and Fishes site at Holy Rosary Catholic Church, 18<sup>th</sup> Ave. and 24<sup>th</sup> St. There is a need for cooks, servers and a clean-up crew. The schedule is: 2:00 pm Cooking 5:00 pm Serving 6:00 pm Clean-Up. Sign up in the Community Room or call the church office.

Financial Report	July 4	Year to Date
Budget Requirements	11,076.92	299,076.92
Budget Receipts	11,796.58	275,593.14
World Hunger	25.00	1,149.02
Haiti Relief	--	6,569.70
Capital Improvements	--	40.00
African Pastors Endowment	--	375.00
Central America Fund	--	60.00
Youth Opportunity Fund	--	952.00
Rain Garden	120.00	27,875.37
<i>Total donations to Rain Garden</i>		<i>37,420.46</i>

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