



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

ON ETIQUETTE AND PECKING ORDERS

A reflection on Luke 14:7-14 excerpted from the August 29 sermon

I was once told in an etiquette workshop that etiquette is all about making others feel comfortable.

Now I suppose making people feel comfortable isn't really a bad thing. We could think of practicing good etiquette as an act of hospitality. It's a way of making others feel welcome.

But in another way, we could think of good etiquette as a way of reinforcing the pecking order. In a way, etiquette is about maintaining systems that keep people in their proper places. We might even say that practicing good etiquette is about avoiding shame by making sure that we honor those who are higher than us on the social ladder. In a sense, etiquette is about going out of our way to honor those who deserve our respect.

This was precisely what etiquette was about in Jesus' time. In his world, one's social status was made plain in every moment, in every interaction—in how you dressed, in where you lived, in how food and resources were distributed. Really, when you think about it, it's not so different today.

Jesus doesn't have a lot of time for our human attempts to make distinctions based on social status. His ministry was largely devoted to undermining systems that assign people to certain social positions and keep them in their places. Jesus put forth a new vision of life together, based not on hierarchy but on equality, where there's a level playing field and nobody is above or below anyone else. In his vision of life together, there are no distinctions between those at the top of society and those at the bottom. In the kingdom of God, there are no distinctions between haves and have-nots.

Now I think most of us understand what kind of world Jesus had in mind. Most of us probably even think that we'd like to live in a world without social distinctions. But I wonder how much we've really considered what living in this kind of a world would mean for us. Luther Seminary professor David Lose suggests that, in the kind of world Jesus has in mind, "we can't stand... on our accomplishments, or our wealth, or positive attributes, or good looks, or strengths, or IQ, or our movement up or down the reigning pecking order. There is... nothing we can do to establish ourselves before God and the world." And that's a scary thing, to imagine losing our capacity to establish ourselves and make a name for ourselves. We want to know how we measure up—and we do that most often by comparing ourselves to others. That's why, whether we like them or not, we are so invested in social pecking orders.

Maybe in this world we can somehow earn the respect of others or merit the most important seat at the banquet. But there is no earning God's favor; that's something we can only receive as a gift of grace. God's favor is given equally to everyone without regard for age, race, class, gender, orientation, immigration status, or whatever else might dictate your place in the pecking order.

—Javen Swanson, Intern Pastor

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Often the cost of discipleship is focused on what we must give up in order to follow Jesus. Taking another look, we might ask "do we understand the consequences of what discipleship will be?"

Following means losing. Losing means finding where we belong—with Jesus. We don't give up things to prove our worth, following Jesus we naturally let go of our baggage, knowing we have been given the Kingdom of God.



LESSONS

Jeremiah 18:1-11
Psalm 139:1-6,13-18
Philemon 1-21
Luke 14:25-33

SUNDAY ADULT FORUM

9:55 am — In the library

Note time change: 11:00 am, following the 10:00 am worship service

September 5 *Speaking of Faith* - "Memorable Worship Experiences: What makes them so?"

--Cory Bryan, Ray Sanders, and Mary Ellen Olson

Several Holy Trinity members will reflect on worship experiences in which they have participated in order to stimulate conversation about what is at the heart of meaningful worship.

September 12 Bancroft and Holy Trinity

Cathy Schacher from Bancroft School will introduce the new partnership that Holy Trinity will have with the school.

PROGRESSIVE DINNER

Share a MN Meal with other Holy Trinity members. The 2010 Progressive Dinner is on the calendar...Saturday, September 25. Now we just need you to host a course or bring your favorite dish made from local ingredients! Contact Chris at 612.618.8570 if you would like to host a course. There is also a sign-up sheet in the Community Room. This is always a great event... make it greater by joining us!



The Rain Garden is underway... check out the progress pictures posted on our facebook page.
<http://www.facebook.com/htlcmpls>

PARISH INFORMATION

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 5 – ONE SERVICE AT 10 A.M.

Please join us for one worship service at 10:00 am on Sunday, Sept 5, followed by the Adult Forum. Invitation to gardeners – Help us adorn the front of the sanctuary on that day with bouquets from your garden!

COME AND SING! You are invited to be part of a special Labor Day choir which will sing at the unified service. We will warm up and learn an easy anthem at 9:30 in the choir room. No experience necessary. All are welcome!

CHILDREN'S CHOIR AND CANTATE!

Does your child love to sing? Children in grades 1 through 8 are invited to sing with the Holy Trinity Children's Choir (Grades 1-5) and Cantate! (Grades 6-10). Ann Schrooten will be scheduling times on Sunday, September 5, from 11:00 to 11:30, to meet individually with new singers and their parents. Choir rehearsals will begin on Wednesday evening, September 8. Children's Choir meets each Wednesday from 6:00-6:40 PM and Cantate! meets on Wednesdays from 6:45 to 7:25 PM. Please call the church office if your child is interested in joining. We'd love to have you!

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS STILL NEEDED

Our first session of church school begins on Sunday, Sept. 12, just one week away. There remains an urgent need for four more teachers: one in grades Kgn-1, two in grades 2-3 and one in grades 4-5-6. All teaching materials are provided and teachers work together in teams. Please indicate your willingness to help by signing the list in the Community Room or calling the church office (612-729-8358). A teacher training session will be offered on Tue, Sept. 7 at 10am or 7pm. Please call the church office to indicate which session you will attend.

OPPORTUNITY SALE

The Opportunity Sale will be held on Sat. Oct 2 from 9 am-2 pm. We are collecting usable donations in good working order. Please no TVs or electronics. Check electrical or battery items to make sure they work and attach a note that they do! Place items inside the 2nd set of cul-de-sac doors.

CHECK IT OUT!

The title of Brian McLaren's book, "The Secret Message of Jesus," is meant to entice the reader to reexamine Jesus' primary mission. The "secret message" challenges popular religious views of Jesus purpose. Readers will appreciate two chapters in the appendix: "Why Didn't We Get It Sooner?" and "Plotting Goodness." This book and others by Brian McLaren, including his latest, "A New Kind of Christianity," can be found in the library or on the library book truck in the Community Room.

PARISH EVENTS September 5 - September 11, 2010		
Sunday	10:00 am	Worship Service of Holy Communion
	11:00 am	Adult Forum
	2:00 pm	Swahili service
Monday		Labor Day--Office Closed
Wednesday	10:00 am	Lectionary Text Study
	6:00-6:40 pm	Children's Choir
	6:45-7:25 pm	Cantate!
	7:30 pm	Adult Choir

World Hunger and Disaster Relief- by John /Stephanie Sulzbach and in memory of mother, *Delores*, by *Deb Sodt*.

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS September 5, 2010	
10:00 AM	
Jay Carlson	Preacher
Jay Carlson	Celebrant
Wayne Vetter	Crucifer
Paul Ramsour	Cantor
Sharon Englund	Liturgist
Mary Lindell, David Krig	Communion
Bob Peschiutta, Liz Blood, Paul Krumrei, Nicholas Ellison	Ushers
Nan Madich, Dennis Nordholm	Altar Guild
Joy Nelson, Kerry Bosu	Nursery
	Coffee Servers
Wayne Vetter, Nicholas Ellison	Counters
Stella Townsend	Closer

Financial Report	August 29	Year to Date
Budget Requirements	11,076.92	387,692.31
Budget Receipts	4,640.00	361,842.38
World Hunger	251.00	2,941.02
Disaster Relief	250.00	6,819.70
Capital Improvements	-	40.00
Rain Garden	50.00	28,770.37
African Pastor's endowment	-	615.00

SHARING YARNS

Want to get back into knitting (or crocheting, needlepoint, etc)? Come join us for fun and make a difference for a special cause – we have patterns! Or bring your current project and share some fellowship. Group will meet in the Mary Martha room on the first Thursday of each month beginning Oct. 7.

THE COMMUNITY CHURCH USPS 777-060

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