

Journeying Towards Justice Notes

Here is another installment in a continuing series of reflections by St. Michael's members working with the Journeying Towards Justice effort. This month's writer is Mary Seabloom.

Here are some reflections I sent to Pastor Ali after Philando Castile's murder this past July:

We have a CSA share at the Good Acre, on Larpenteur and Fry, so were there the afternoon before Philando was shot, to pick up our vegetables. An ordinary drive.

That next morning, after waking up to the news, we passed the site of the shooting while running errands. There were 15 or so people there, no one who looked, to my quick scan, to be white. That weighed on me; we all need to be present. All are welcome at the table, right? We all need to share the burden and the sorrow as well.

When I picked up my son, Grant, later that day, I said I'd like to just stop and sit a bit at the site. He'd been thinking the same. There were 15-20 people there, a mix of colors. One guy, who looked like he'd been at protests since the 60's, was sitting in the middle of the right lane of Larpenteur, where the shooting had occurred, diverting the cars around him.

There wasn't much interaction; people were in ones or twos, quiet and thoughtful. I looked over my right shoulder and saw a Black man, maybe in his 40's sitting up the slope from us, like we were, taking in what had happened. Right here. My heart moved me to connect, so I skootched up and said, "Hey, it seems kinda silly for us to be sitting here at this place and not to talk with each other." We introduced ourselves.

I said we lived a short walk away and asked if he lived in the neighborhood, too. No, he lived outside The Cities now. His Mom lived in South Minneapolis, though. "We used to live in the Longfellow Neighborhood; where were you?" He said, "Phillips." "Oh, yeah? Not too far away from each other." Practically neighbors.

Turns out that, when he was 20, his best friend was shot and killed by the police. He said he hadn't felt like he could do anything then, he cleaned up his own life but that was it. Now, with this shooting, he felt compelled to come and sit and think about all that and what to do next. He'd been stopped by the police for a taillight violation just a few weeks before and said, "I think the only reason it didn't turn out like this is that I had a nicer car."

We talked a bit more, and agreed we didn't have it in us to join the man sitting in the middle of Larpenteur, but shared our intentions to go to the rally that night. We both said we probably wouldn't run into each other, but it was good to know each would be there. We shook hands, said goodbye, and wished each other well. Practically neighbors. --Mary Seabloom



From the Pastor's Study

In March we prepare to lean forward into the horizon. The earth powerfully shifts toward the sun with the vernal equinox; the church proclaims "springtime" (with Lent being the Old English word for the season); and we stand on the pulse of a new day—a new season—in the life of St. Michael's.

With more light, new days, and spring in the air, it is important to pause and take note of some of the seeds being planted and steps taking place.

A number of people have noted new aspects of liturgy on Sunday mornings—the Thanksgiving for Baptism, the Faith Statement from New Zealand, even the recognition of the various parts of liturgy (gathering, word, meal, and sending). I wanted to share a little background on these items.

First, in the Lutheran Church we often center ourselves for worship with either Confession and Forgiveness, which is quite standard, or the Thanksgiving for Baptism. With the first big Sunday in Epiphany being the Baptism of Jesus and many of the Sundays being tied to water and light, this year we have opted to use the Thanksgiving for Baptism as a way to center ourselves as a people of faith during this season. (Note that this will change as we move into the season of Lent.)

Additionally, the Faith Statement from the *New Zealand Book of Prayer* has served as a simple way to lift up our connection with the larger church as we prayed for and celebrated the month of Christian unity. It also invited us to reflect on the words we use in worship and how we express our faith. During Lent we will be exploring another faith statement of faith from the Iona community—this faith statement invites us to reflect on Jesus life and witness.

Finally, the headings in the bulletin simply outline the aspects of worship that we, as Lutherans, view

"The horizon leans forward,
Offering you space
To place new steps of change
Here, on the pulse of this fine day..."

~Maya Angelou,
On the Pulse of Morning

as the core components of the liturgy. It often also helps us move through worship in ways that focus our attention on what is happening and the on-going progression

Beyond worship, you will also find that we are feeling the pulse of the new day as the Journeying Towards Justice team continues to engage the congregation in conversations and questions around race, privilege, and how we are called to be the church; as the youth continue the tradition of Lenten soup suppers, Easter breakfast, and preparations for their mission trip; as Pastor Ali and women from the church explore programs and opportunities for women's ministry in the congregation; as we lift up spring and summer traditions within the congregation (or imagine new ideas).

For a long time, Lent has been a season tied to guilt and repentance. Many have lived (or lived vicariously through others) with the need to "give things up" for Lent, or to deeply reflect on sin and our depraved lives. It is my hope, alternatively, that we are able to break open a fuller and more robust meaning and purpose of Lent—it is a time to learn, to explore our faith, to "take on" things that give life, that plant seeds of hope, that instill work for compassion and justice. In these ways we are drawn to the tree of life and the promise of God.

In this liturgical season the space is simply offered to place new steps and live in life-revealing ways as we feel the pulse of this new day.

by Pastor Brad Froslee

Lent-2017

Drawn to the Tree of Life: Holy Listening, Gentle Justice

This year on Wednesdays in Lent as we sing the words from *Holden Evening Prayer*, “Hear my voice when I cry to you,” and “make us shine with gentle justice,” we ourselves will engage in the spiritual practice of holy listening and the call to justice by having authors from the book, *A Good Time for the Truth: Race in Minnesota* join us in worship. These local authors will share their experiences of race in Minnesota as we seek to deeply listen to the voices of our neighbors and the experiences that have shaped them.



If you are interested in reading the book during Lent, a copy is available in the church library, the Roseville Library, the Minnesota Historical Society, or your favorite local bookstore. Read along as we hear from these local authors on how racism impedes our community and shapes our experiences.

Lenten worship and soup supper schedule:

Ash Wednesday - March 1

Lunch at 11:00 a.m.; Worship at 12:30 p.m. with Holy Communion and imposition of ashes.*

Supper at 6 p.m.; Worship at 7 p.m. with Holy Communion and imposition of ashes.*

Chicken noodle and broccoli cheese soup will be served at both meals.

*Imposition of ashes will be available for those who desire this sign of mortality, repentance and renewal.

(Each week March 8 through April 5, supper will be at 6 p.m. Worship is at 7 pm with the *Holden Evening Prayer*)

Wednesday, March 8

Speaker Sun Yung Shin

Supper features Chicken Tortilla and California Medley soups

Special music by Joe Davis

Sun Yung Shin is the editor of *A Good Time for the Truth: Race in Minnesota*, author of poetry/essay collections *Unbearable Splendor; Rough, and Savage;* and *Skirt Full of Black*, a co-editor of *Outsiders Within: Writing on Transracial Adoption*, and the author of the children’s book *Cooper’s Lesson*. She has received artist grants from the Bush Foundation, the Minnesota State Arts Board, the McKnight Foundation, and the Jerome Foundation. She has taught at St. Catherine University, Hamline University, Macalester College, and University of Minnesota, the Perpich Center, the Minneapolis Public Schools, and the Loft Literary Center. She is a 2016-2017 writer in residence at the Wisdom Ways Center for Spirituality and is a contributing editor at Aster(ix) and Society Editions.

An Opportunity for Discussion and Learning: Please join us following worship on March 8, 15, 22, 29 and April 5 in the Courtyard Room for reflection and discussion on the topics raised by our Lenten speakers.

For our Youth

3-5th Grade Swim Party! March 5, 12-4:30 pm

Pack your swimsuit and towel, we are going to the Shoreview Community Center for an afternoon of fun! We will have lunch at church and then head to the Community Center for an afternoon of swimming at the indoor water park. Cost: \$10 Sign up on the youth bulletin board outside of the church office or contact Pastor Ali (ali@stmichaelselca.com)



Soup Suppers begin on March 1!

Join us at 6 pm on Wednesday, during Lent for a delicious time of fellowship before Lenten worship at 7 pm. See the Lenten Worship and supper schedule on pages 2-3 of this month’s *Messenger*. St. Michael’s young people, their parents and mentors play an important role in helping serve at soup suppers.

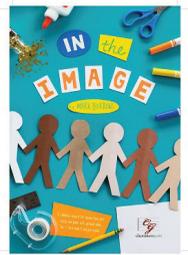
6-12th Grade Service Project March 19!

March is “Minnesota Foodshare” month and we are going to do our part by serving at Community Emergency Services, a food shelf in Minneapolis! Keep an eye on your email for more information.

Rehearsals Underway for Children’s Musical. Performance is May 20

Rehearsals for this year’s musical, *In the Image* by Mark Burrows, are underway. Students in grades 1-4 (Celebration Singers) meet from 6:30-7:15 pm. Students in grades 5-8 (Spirit Choir) meet from 7:30-8:15 pm. Dress rehearsal is scheduled for Saturday, May 20. The musical performances will take place on Sunday, May 21 at both services.

Mark Burrows’ fantastic and inspiring new children’s musical, *In the Image*, features a group of children who have just experienced the story of The Creation. And now they’re starting to wonder what it really means to be created in the image of God. Through humorous, earnest exploration, the children discover that being created in the image of God isn’t about physical appearance. It’s about creativity, faithfulness, responsibility, community, and the ability to find the good in things.



Life of the Congregation

Plan to Attend *Sweet Land, the musical* on April 30

St. Michael's women, let's get together to see this important story at the Minnesota History Theater on April 30.

Sweet Land is the story of Inge Al-tenberg who journeys to America to marry a bachelor farmer, sight unseen in 1920. In the wake of World War I, her German heritage creates immense challenges for her and her stoic, farmer husband.

Desserters II meet on March 28

The Desserters II book group meets on Tuesday, March 28, to discuss *Lab Girl* by Hope Jahren. John and Becky Anderson will host. Watch your bulletin for details about location.

Befrienders meet on March 23 at 7 pm at church.

Growing Through Loss Series Scheduled for April

The next Growing Through Loss series will be held Monday evenings, April 17, through May 22, from 6:45 to 9 pm at Abiding Savior Lutheran Church, 8211 Red Oak Drive, Mounds View.

This six-week series provides an opportunity for individuals to obtain information and support for a variety of loss and grief issues. Free childcare is available, but please call a week in advance so they are prepared for your children. Call 763-755- 5335 or visit www.growingthroughloss.org for more information.



YogaDevotion Underway

A new session of YogaDevotion began on Monday, February 27. You are still welcome to join in! Class meets on Mondays at 6:30 pm at Church. Contact Kathy Nockleby For information kathynockleby@gmail.com.

Circles to Meet

- **The Sarah Circle** meets on Tuesday, March 7, at 9:30 am at Ginny Perman's home
- **The Elisabeth Circle** meets on Wednesday, March 8, at 1 p.m. at Church.

Family Matters

We welcome these new members baptized in February

- **Quinn Louise Brawley**, daughter of Gregory and Amanda Brawley
- **Carson Robert Eickelberg**, son of Courtney and Bryan Eickelberg

Lent-2017, continued

Wednesday, March 15

Sherry Quan Lee.

Supper features Vegetarian Chili and Chicken Wild Rice Soup

Special Music: To be announced

Sherry Quan Lee approaches writing as a community resource. Her book, *Love Imagined: a mixed race memoir*, was a 2015 Minnesota Book Award finalist.

Wednesday, March 22

Shannon Gibney

Supper features Butternut Squash and Chicken Noodle Soup

Special Music: St. Paul Vocal Forum

Director: Karin Barrett

Shannon Gibney is a writer, educator, activist, and the author of *See No Color*; a young adult novel. Her writing has appeared in Al Jazeera America, The Crisis, Gawker, and more. She is a Bush Artist and McKnight Writing Fellow.

Wednesday, March 29

Rodrigo Sanchez-Chavarria

Supper features Beef Barley and Broccoli with Cheese soups

Special Music: Andrea Stern, Harp

Rodrigo Sanchez-Chavarria is a writer and spoken word poet of Peruvian heritage involved with Palabristas, a Minnesota-based Latin@ poets collective. He is an MFA student at Hamline University and writes about fatherhood, the duality of two cultures.

About Soup Suppers: On Wednesdays, we offer a soup and salad supper from 6-6:45 pm. (Peanut butter and jelly sandwiches are available.) A donation will be accepted. Donations exceeding costs will go to the food shelf. On Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday we will offer a soup and salad lunch at 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Wednesday, April 5

David Grant

Supper features featuring Chili and Tomato Basil Raviolotti soups

Special Music: Devon Steve, Baritone

David Lawrence Grant has written drama, fiction, and memoir. He has written major reports on racial bias in the justice system for the Minnesota Supreme Court and on racial disparities in the health care system for the Minnesota legislature. He teaches screenwriting at Independent Filmmaker Project/Minnesota.

Holy Week Observances

April 9 Palm Sunday

This day marks the beginning of Holy Week. We remember Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem as crowds gathered around him, waving palms and shouting "Hosanna!" Within days, the praise of the crowds will turn into shouts of condemnation at Jesus' trial and crucifixion. Worship at 8:45 and 11:00 am.

April 13 Maundy Thursday

Lunch at 11:30 a.m. featuring wild rice soup in the Fellowship Hall

Worship at 12:30 p.m. in the Courtyard Room

Worship at 7:00 p.m. with Holy Communion in the Fellowship Hall

The term "Maundy" comes from the Latin "mandatum;" it is from a verb that means "to give" or "to order" -- command. After Jesus and the disciples finished the Last Supper and walked toward Gethsemane, Jesus taught them a new commandment -- "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another." (John 13:34) We remember the command to love and serve one another through Jesus washing his disciple's feet and the breaking of bread.

April 14 Good Friday

7:00 p.m. worship in the Sanctuary.

Council Corner

The church council met on Tuesday, February 7, 2017.

Business items included:

Election of officers for 2017: Becky Sorlien, president; Mike Gregory, vice president; Dave Yarusso, secretary; Kim Chapman, treasurer. These four elected officers and the two pastors comprise the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee will be meeting monthly (at least in the immediate future) on the fourth Tuesday of each month from 5:30-6:30 pm.

Selection of council members to serve as committee liaisons for 2017

Education: Jessica Etten and Mike Gregory

Finance: Kim Chapman (treasurer)

Nurturing Relationships: Bev Sherwood and Becky Sorlien

Personnel and Administration: Patty Bales and Lenie Hermanson

Property: John Brenemann and Brad Koland

Social Ministry: Erica Crouch and Dave Yarusso

Stewardship: Carol Kriegler

Youth: Peter Breuch

Conversation around Committees: The Council discussed that the bylaws call for a Worship and Music Committee and the roles of various committees. At this point in time the two pastors will work with the music staff on the Worship and Music committee. The Council will review as the congregation looks at long-term planning and vision.

Financial Resolutions: The Council passed resolutions pertaining to signing and information privileges for banking.

Noted upcoming events in the life of the congregation.

Ordering Easter Flowers

St. Michael's tradition is to have a "garden" of flowers gracing the altar on Easter Sunday. Watch your church bulletin for information about donating flowers and for details about variety and price. The deadline for ordering flowers is Monday, April 3. Contact the church office if you have questions office@stmichaelselca.com.



Social Ministry

March is FoodShare Month in Minnesota

"You must actively help the hungry and feed the oppressed. Then your light will dispel the darkness..." -Isaiah 58:10

This March we are joining with other faith communities, as well as food shelves, businesses and organizations across Minnesota in the movement to end hunger. For 35 years the March Campaign has, with your help, restocked local food shelves. Please bring nonperishable food or monetary donations to worship service during the month of March so together we can strive to #ENDHUNGER.



Did you know hunger is still a problem in Minnesota?

- 1 in 10 Minnesota families experience food insecurity.
- In 2015 there were over 3.2 million food shelf visits in Minnesota, half of which were made by children and seniors.
- Last year the March Campaign raised more than 5.2 million pounds of food and \$7.9 million for food shelves around the state.
- 100% of contributions go to Keystone Food Shelf, serving Roseville and the St. Paul area.
- Keystone can make each dollar donated stretch further through their access to low-cost products.

Social Ministry Calendar for March

Minnesota Food Share Month	Donate Now!
Rezek House Meal	March 6
WAND Meal	March 9 and 23
Global Health Ministries	March 13 and 27
Loaves and Fishes	March 20
Panera Bread Rescue	Weekly

THANK YOU! for your donations to the Rezek House Welcome Home Shower! Your generosity helps homeless youth build new lives at Rezek house, a transitional shelter in St. Paul. Learn more about Rezek House by contacting Pastor Ali at ali@stmichaelselca.com.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 Transfiguration Sunday 8:45 AM Worship 10:00 AM Education Hour--age two through adult 11:00 AM Worship 6:00 PM Youth Ice Cream and Pizza Party	27 8:30 AM Global Health Ministries 6:30 PM Yoga Devotion	28 9:00 AM Quilting 10:30 AM Staff Meeting 5:15 PM Executive Team Meeting 7:00 PM Adult Children of Alcoholics 7:00 PM Desserters II Book Club	1 Ash Wednesday 11:00 AM Ash Wednesday Luncheon 12:00 PM Faith in Daily Life--Rsv 12:30 PM Ash Wednesday Worship with Holy Communion 5:30 PM Youth Bells Rehearsal 6:00 PM Soup Supper 6:20 PM Celebration Singers 6:30 PM St. Michael's Singers 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Worship with Holy Communion 7:50 PM Spirit Choir	2 9:00 AM Quilting 9:30 AM Thursday Morning Study 6:00 PM Chapel Ringers	3	4 8:00 AM St. Paul Area Synod Journey toward Justice Event
5  8:45 AM Worship with Holy Communion 10:00 AM Education Hour--age two through adult 11:00 AM Worship with Holy Communion 12:00 PM 3-5th Grade Swimming Party	6 4:00 PM Rezek House Meal 6:30 PM Yoga Devotion 7:00 PM Roseville Festival Singers Kick off	7 9:00 AM Quilting 9:30 AM Sarah Circle 10:30 AM Staff Meeting 7:00 PM Adult Children of Alcoholics	8 9:00 AM Quilting & Bandage Rolling 12:00 PM Faith in Daily Life - MPLS 1:00 PM Elisabeth Circle 5:30 PM Youth Bells Rehearsal 6:00 PM Soup Supper 6:20 PM Celebration Singers 6:30 PM St. Michael's Singers 7:00 PM Lenten Worship 7:50 PM Spirit Choir	9 9:00 AM Quilting 9:30 AM Thursday Morning Study 6:00 PM Chapel Ringers	10	11
12 Daylight Savings Time Begins 8:45 AM Worship 9:45 AM Sandwich Making 10:00 AM Education Hour--age two through adult 11:00 AM Worship	13 8:30 AM Global Health Ministries 6:30 PM Yoga Devotion	14 9:00 AM Quilting 10:30 AM Staff Meeting 6:30 PM Social Ministry Committee Meeting 7:00 PM Adult Children of Alcoholics 8:15 PM Church Council Meeting	15 12:00 PM Faith in Daily Life--St. Paul 5:30 PM Youth Bells Rehearsal 6:00 PM Soup Supper 6:20 PM Celebration Singers 6:30 PM St. Michael's Singers 7:00 PM Lenten Worship 7:50 PM Spirit Choir	16 9:00 AM Quilting 9:30 AM Thursday Morning Study 6:00 PM Chapel Ringers	17 10:00 AM Group Spiritual Direction	18
19 8:45 AM Worship with Holy Communion 10:00 AM Education Hour--age two through adult 11:00 AM Worship with Holy Communion	20 Loaves and Fishes Meal 6:30 PM Yoga Devotion	21 9:00 AM Quilting 10:30 AM Staff Meeting 7:00 PM Adult Children of Alcoholics	22 9:00 AM Messenger Assembly 9:00 AM Quilting & Bandage Rolling 5:30 PM Youth Bells Rehearsal 6:00 PM Soup Supper 6:20 PM Celebration Singers 6:30 PM St. Michael's Singers 7:00 PM Lenten Worship 7:50 PM Spirit Choir	23 9:00 AM Quilting 9:30 AM Thursday Morning Study 6:00 PM Chapel Ringers	24	25
26 8:45 AM Worship 10:00 AM Education Hour--age two through adult 11:00 AM Worship	27 8:30 AM Global Health Ministries 6:30 PM Yoga Devotion	28 8:30 AM Piano Tuning 9:00 AM Quilting 10:30 AM Staff Meeting 5:15 PM Executive Team Meeting 7:00 PM Adult Children of Alcoholics 7:00 PM Desserters II Book Club	29 5:30 PM Youth Bells Rehearsal 6:00 PM Soup Supper 6:20 PM Celebration Singers 6:30 PM St. Michael's Singers 7:00 PM Lenten Worship 7:50 PM Spirit Choir	30 9:00 AM Quilting 9:30 AM Thursday Morning Study 6:00 PM Chapel Ringers	31	1 Piano

Calendar will be pages 6 and 7

From the Welcoming team

Have You Had Lunch or Dinner with Pastor Brad Yet?

You may have heard, the Welcoming Team helped organize some small “get acquainted” meetings, with volunteers offering to host either a lunch, dinner, or happy hour with Pastor Brad. The purpose of these fun outings is to help everyone get better acquainted with our new pastor, as well as with each other. These get-togethers have been taking place for a few weeks now and we’re happy to report they are a big success! Because not everyone got to sign up in the beginning, we’re extending the dates. You will soon have a chance to sign up again to be a part of this fun. Watch your Sunday Bulletin and The Messenger for notices as to which dates are available, then go to SignUp Genius and confirm a slot. (<https://www.goo.gl/R7gxxK>)

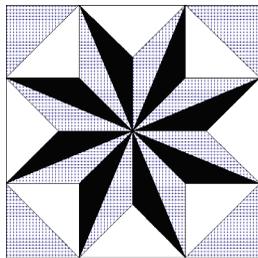


Thanks for being a special part of the beginning of Pastor Brad’s life here at St. Michael’s!

Regards,
Your Welcome Team

Global Health Ministries Plans Wall of Quilts for its Spring Gala

Global Health Ministries (GHM) is calling quilters to donate quilts for a display at its spring gala on May 6 at the Minneapolis Marriott NW. Quilts are an apt symbol of Global Health Ministries because the organization sends many quilts to mission hospitals around the world, “helping them to wrap patients on God’s Healing Grace.” The donated quilts will be auctioned during the gala silent auction to raise funds for GHM projects. If you can donate, GHM needs your quilts by April 15. Contact Kim Dickey, Director for Mission Development at GHM kimdickey@ghm.org, 763-586-9590.



Want to support GHM by attending the gala? You may contact Dickey using the contact information above or visit the GHM website, www.ghm.org.

Religion in Life

Join us for Religion in Life on Sunday mornings following the 8:45 am service.

March 5-Wives, Mothers, Sisters, and Daughters

Anna Grunner

We will read some key stories about women in the Bible, ask new questions about them, and think together about why it matters how we read them today.

March 12--Something Old, Something New: Christian Contemplative Practices for Today

Dr. Joann Nesser

Can ancient practices renew the church? Christianity has contemplative practices that take us beyond petition and intercession to and intimate relationships with God.

March 19--Women in Prison

Deborah Jiang-Stein

Stein is the founder of the unPrision Project, a nonprofit working to build the life skills and mentoring for incarcerated women and girls.

March 26--Commissioned Savages

Jim Bear Jacobs

We will explore the troubling ways that Native Americans are portrayed in our public space.

Meet Mary Gail Hadley

Mary Gail Hadley, St. Michael’s new office administrator, begins work on March 1. She was born into a pastor’s family in Aberdeen, South Dakota.

She earned a Bachelor of Religious Education degree from Crown College and managed a college bookstore at her alma mater. She was a self-employed bookkeeper; provided customer support in various businesses; and served as a Director of Christian Education at Beverly Park Community

Church in Everett, Washington. As Church Administrator at Calvary Lutheran Church, she worked with Pastor Brad Froslee for five years. She has been a Clergy Assistant at Temple Israel in Minneapolis for the past three years.

Mary Gail lives in Coon Rapids with her husband, Ken. Their family includes five grown children and their spouses.

