



**Proclaiming God's
Grace,
Creating Community,
Serving our Neighbors**

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Northminster News

Volume LX, No. 06

June 2019

Letter from the Pastor

Dear Northminster Community,

Last year in June I pruned my lilac tree. The tree hadn't been pruned for some time. Branches went in every direction, some blooming and some bare. One could not easily figure out if the tree was thriving or dying. Cautiously I brought a saw to the tree to lop off the branches that were not producing. I clipped where I could, and made bold cuts in other places. I wondered if the tree would come back, or if I had ruined it for good.

This April revealed a tree with more leaves and blossoms than I had seen before. May offered lush growth bursting with the sweet scent of lilacs everywhere. The pruning had worked, but it had taken almost twelve months to see it.

Pruning is hard and scary. When we see emptiness, we can mistake it for death. When we see exhausted branches thrown out, we can mistake that action as judgment. But that is because we have forgotten about something that we cannot see: the root system.

The root system, of course, is what is always at work. Offer it some relief by chopping off some old branches, and it works overtime creating new growth. Without the branches, the root system fully alive. But without the root system, the branches cannot do a thing.

The root system of our Christian faith is alive and well. Community, love, incarnation, service, justice, self-giving, relationship, prayer, song, and sacrament. The world has not outgrown these things, even in the 21st century. In fact, we need them more than ever.

But how do we see them? Where are they blossoming? These are the questions that we continue to ask ourselves as we seek to be the people of the resurrection.

As we grow and change, we cannot confuse the branches with the roots. Blossoming and growth might look different in the future, but this doesn't mean that the root system has changed. Perhaps it means that it is more robust than ever.

Here are just a handful of ways that I see our growth at Northminster:

- Mission activity is found in areas of civic partnership** (Northgate Elementary Partnership, Developing Partnership with SHARE/WHEEL)
- Worship services are intergenerational and held with the larger community in mind** (Welcoming Worship, Variety of Styles and Music)
- Church buildings are an asset for the community and the common good** (New Worshipping Community, AA, Girl Scouts, Preschool and others use the building)
- Church can lead the way in offering support and conversation dealing with gender and race** (Black Lives Matter curriculum, Pride and LGBT+ Education and Dialogue)

Yet the roots of self-giving, love, relationship, and service are present in all of these new signs of growth.

We are in an exciting moment as a church. Sometimes it feels terrifying. Will the growth come? Yes, but maybe it will look different than we ever imagined.

Warmly,

Theology on Tap for Summer!

June 12 & 26 and July 17

Theology on Tap will meet three times over the summer! We will be taking advantage of the warm weather and meeting outside.

All gatherings will be at Pastor Jeny's home, so please email her for more information:
jeny.carlson@northminsterpres.org



Community Dinners are ending for the year!

Please join us for this fabulous time of connection in our community!

Community Dinner: Family Favorites

June 5, 6:00pm in the Fellowship Hall

We end our year of Community Nights by coming together with your family's favorite dish. We will share our summer plans and take up ideas for themes for next year!

Registration for Creative Camp 2019 is open!

The Inescapable Me: Experiencing Psalm 139

Join Northminster Presbyterian for a week of Creative Camp from August 26-29 for grades 1st - 5th. We will take four days to ask the question: How do we see ourselves as God sees us? Through creative exploration of Psalm 139, we will look at the ways that God knows us, cares for us, and we are welcomed into God's family. Knowing how God sees us then gives us freedom to know ourselves, care about the world, and welcome others into our lives and community.

Over the week, campers will explore these themes through music and singing, storytelling, art, and whole body movement. Fee for each camper is \$20 for the week, which includes activities, snacks and lunch each day.

FLOWERS FOR THE SANCTUARY

We have a new flower chart located in the reception room on the counter where the library books are displayed. If you would like to donate flowers for the sanctuary you can sign up on this chart. You may provide your own flowers and do your own arrangement, donate flowers from your garden, or provide money to buy flowers and have either Nancy Ingle or Sheila Striegl arrange them. If you have questions about vases or other arrangement needs just call Sheila.

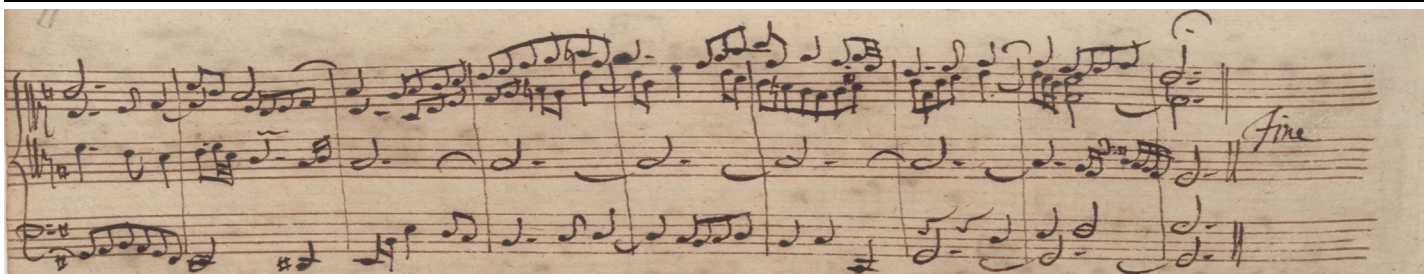




LGBTQ+ Discussion Groups

Every Sunday in June, 9:00-10:00 am, Fellowship Hall

Join us every Sunday morning in June to ask questions, explore your own understanding of LGBT issues, and discover how an inclusive faith is vital to the future of the church.



Spirituality + Innovation: Bach, Pentecost, and Trinity Sunday

from organist Eric

In June we celebrate the festival of Pentecost (where the Holy Spirit comes into the Disciples as a rushing wind and as tongues of enlightening flame) and Trinity Sunday (we pause to reflect on the omnipotence of God: Spirit, Son, and Father). These deeply spiritual events acknowledge the all-ness of God and the Spirit.

Bach is our perfect musical guide and companion. A profoundly spiritual person whose life and music circulated around these ideas, Bach inscribed at the end of each score "to God alone be glory". His depth of insight, paired with his prodigious musical skills and creativity, resulted in the preludes for these two Sundays. At Pentecost we hear Bach's setting of the German hymn, Bless Us God, Holy Spirit, always sung on Pentecost. Bach opens the 4 1/2 minute work with three simple ascending notes (symbolizing the Trinity) and then proceeds to unfold a work of such magnitude (based on just those three notes) that we cannot help but be caught up in the experience of God/Spirit as All-in-All.

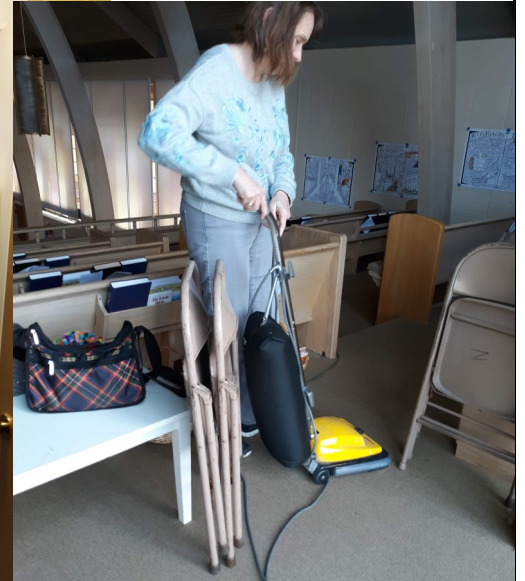
On Trinity Sunday Bach shares with us a triple fugue to symbolize each person of the Trinity: the sturdy and strong Father, the gentle, healing Savior, and the bright, joyful Spirit. Brilliantly, to get his idea across, Bach weaves the theme of the first fugue (the Father) into each of the others, and closes the whole work with that theme, effectively declaring, "I am God; there is none else."

ALL-CHURCH CLEAN-UP DAY

The church held a casual Sunday and Spring Cleaning on May 19! After a light lunch and presentation about SHARE/WHEEL project, over 30 volunteers worked on the manse and church yards, disassembling and recycling chairs, cleaning out closets and storage rooms, vacuuming, dusting, and mopping and much more!

Very Special thanks to those below for their hard work and creativity!

Caroline Alben, Myla Belston, Zac Calvo, Jeny & Lars Carlson, Carol Charles, Cynthia, Ryan, and Aaron Chen, Dani & Doug Forbess, Jason, Szu-Yu, Rachel & Aquila Wu, Harold Hughes, Jen Jensen, Fred Kern, Georgia Kurtz, Lisa & Jim Lady, Valentina Levitskaya and her sister Lilya, Jan Olson, Becky & Antonio Ruffin, Stephen Sill, Sharon & Stan Steenrod, Liz Tennant & Peter Maier, Kim Wagoner, Ann Wightman.



PENTECOST OFFERING-SUNDAY, JUNE 8th NEW CARPETING

We will be collecting an offering this Sunday and next in honor of Pentecost Sunday to help with important maintenance needs of the church. We started this last year and raised several thousand dollars. This year we are raising funds to **replace the carpet** everywhere but the Sanctuary. If you've been in the carpeted areas that are the hallways and rooms of the older building you know this carpet needs replacing. It's wrinkled and bunched, threadbare in spots; an eyesore and potential tripping hazard! We estimate new carpeting will cost approximately \$40,000. It's a lot of space to cover ya'll.

We've placed poorly decorated (I take full responsibility for that) **envelopes in the pews that say Pentecost Offering**. You can place an offering in there--add your name if it's cash, or just write Pentecost on your check, and place it in the offering plate. Another option is **online** giving. Go to Northminsterpres.org and click the donate button. Just indicate it's for Pentecost! If you have any questions, you can talk to Stacy Kern (206-372-1664 or stacyek@gmail.com) or chat with Lars Carlson at church!



Prayer Corner

This month our prayer invitation is for spiritual renewal and formation. Please read, meditate on and pray one or more of these passages for yourself, for the Northminster congregation and for our Presbytery (other Presbyterian churches in the area).

Jeremiah 17:5-10 especially verses 7-8:

Blesses are those who trust in the Lord

Whose trust is the Lord.

They shall be like a tree planted by water.

It shall not fear when heat comes,

And its leaves shall stay green;

In the year of drought it is not anxious,

And it does not cease to bear fruit. (Jer. 17:7-8)

Psalm 1 (just six verses) which has a similar theme

Jeremiah 24:4-7 especially if you are feeling a bit lost (wandering) or in exile

LECTIONARY FOR SUNDAYS IN JUNE

June 2 Eastertide 7	June 9 Pentecost	June 16	June 23	June 30
Acts 16:16-34 John 17:20-26	Acts 2:1-21 John 14:15-17, 25-30	Psalm 8 John 16:12-15	Psalm 42:1-8 Luke 9:51-62	Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20 Luke 9:51-62

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

a village church in the city

7706 25th Avenue NW

Seattle WA 98117

206.783.3402

Please notify us with corrections if needed, or if you wish to stop receiving the Northminster News.

Looking Ahead

Community Dinner

June 5, 6:00pm

Membership Orientation

June 5, 6:30pm

Youth Sunday

June 9

LGBTQ+ Discussion Groups

Every Sunday in June, 9:00am

Theology on Tap

June 12 & 26, 7pm

Adult Ed: Graceful Endings

July 14, 21, & 28, 9:00am

Northminster Staff

Senior Pastor

Rev. Dani Forbess

Associate Pastor

of Formation and Outreach

Rev. Jeny Carlson

**Director of Community
& Youth Engagement**

Rev. Zac Calvo

Organist

Eric Johnson

Music Director

Miriam Anderson

Office Manager

Charlie Delavan