



Holy Trinity United Methodist Church

The Sail

Our Vision: *"To love God, uplift people, inspire hope, and grow disciples of Jesus Christ in our community and everywhere we go!"*

January, 2024



"Dynamite Prayer"

In some ways, it seems like we were just welcoming in the new year, 2023. In other ways, 2023 has seemed to linger forever (and often in a not-so-good kind of way). But no matter how you feel about 2023, it is giving way to a new year. And with a new year comes opportunities for new beginnings, new hopes, and new direction.

As we begin 2024 at Holy Trinity Church, we will draw one sermon series to a close and begin a new one.

We began our Advent/Christmas series by acknowledging our weariness, and on January 7 we will conclude the series by trusting our belovedness. Ultimately, our joy is rooted in the fact that we belong to God. We will hear the story of Jesus' baptism, and then be reminded of our own belovedness as we remember our baptism.

I'm going to be on vacation January 14, but when I return we'll dive into "Dynamite Prayer," a 28-day experiment in incorporating the addition of a surrendered breakthrough-prayer practice into our daily lives. The goal of this practice is to help cultivate the capacity to discern, to notice, to respond to God's guidance and to live by the miraculous power of the Holy Spirit.

Dynamite Prayer is a Conference-wide initiative, meaning that other United Methodists across the state (and in the Dakotas, too!) will be focusing on this very important topic. At Holy Trinity, I will be preaching on the subject on January 21 and 28 and February 4. In addition, several small groups will be formed and will meet between January 14 and February 10. Group members will be invited to read the book and come together to share their insights and ideas.

Continued on next page...

In this Issue

Pastor Chad	1-2
Inclusion Starts with I	2
Children, Youth & Family	3
Mission Corner	4
Core Team & Finance Updates	5
Church Announcements	6
January 2024 Calendar	7

Pastor Chad continued...

Each day's entry in the guidebook is divided into five key parts:

- A scripture reading that emphasizes God's dynamic power
- A personal devotional insight about some unique aspect of the Holy Spirit
- Prompts to assist you in cultivating your own honest and authentic reflection, journaling, or discussion with others
- A short breakthrough prayer to keep your heart and mind aligned and focused God-ward throughout the day. There's also space for you to create your own breakthrough prayer as well.
- An even shorter targeted breakthrough prayer version that has been nicknamed a "prayer-hold," which is a style of prayer practiced throughout our historic Christian faith

Watch for more information about "Dynamite Prayer," including when you can pick up a book (we currently have 20 copies on order, and will order more if needed), and how to sign up for a small group.

Let's begin the new year in prayer, and see if we might discern God's new beginnings and new direction.

Peace,
Pastor Chad



Inclusion Starts With I

By Carol Ottoson

I am writing this with the glow from the amazing success of our One Table event on December 17. It was so much fun to see so many people engaged in conversations and stories and to see the dazzling array of incredibly delicious food. As we reflected on the event, we realized that this is the perfect way to end our first year as a Reconciling Congregation and hope to make this an annual event. Our first Inclusion month emphasis was in May, right after Affirmation Sunday. We have shared different foci every month and will continue that into 2024. While it is important to remember that many members of our congregation have personal ties and histories with our Inclusion emphases, the One Table event included ALL members of our congregation. We ALL have stories to share and foods and traditions that are important to us. Inclusion is truly about Identity, and our Inclusion focus for each month opens our hearts and minds to others who may be different from ourselves, but who are ALL Children of God. **January is National Poverty in America Month, which will be our I Team focus.** The purpose is to shed a spotlight on one of the persistent and pervasive problems in America, including in our own community. Did you know that the U.S. ranks second highest in poverty rates among its peer countries? Poverty Awareness Month is about taking an opportunity to learn more about this social ill, raise awareness among others, and understand how everyone can help. All people want the same thing - to earn, learn and belong. Imagine a world where every person has access to basic necessities such as food, shelter, education, and healthcare – a world where poverty, in all its forms, has been eradicated and replaced with equitable and sustainable systems. As we reflect on what we can do, we should consider 1 John 3:17-18 "How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action." May it be so. Remember, **Inclusion starts with I.**



New Year, Same Me

As I write this, the temps are above freezing and it is definitely not slippery outside, but I still have a sense of sliding, out of control, into the new year. It is always like this as we stretch ourselves in kids' and family ministry (KidsMin) at the Christmas season. Our PopUp-Intergenerational-Interactive Nativity program is always chaotic, never knowing how many people will show up, with multiple leaders figuring out the logistics on the fly, regardless of how well-prepared we tried to be. And this is on top of the usual KidsMin things we do trying to help families find identity, belonging and purpose in Jesus Christ. AND on top of my personal efforts to keep up with relationships and the to-do's of the season (my tree is still not fully decorated.)

But, as I reflect on the entirety of 2023, I can see ALL our best KidsMin stuff is chaotic and at least a little improvised. We can plan Vacation Bible School, and STORM Camp, I can be mindful of my share of responsibilities for events like our summer kick-off, Homecoming (Rally) Sunday, or Fall Festival, but something unexpected usually happens that helps us remember that the planning and prep and even the events themselves are not useless, but also are not the most important thing. The most important thing is ALWAYS the human interaction, the moments when we connect over a question, an observation, a story, a surprising challenge, an alarming problem, or an unexpected but gratifying outcome. Sometimes the moment involves a cute or funny incident when we can laugh together, or a mess where a wink of encouragement or quick helping hand lifts the burden, or it could be the sharing of a painful situation that calls for a hug or a prayer, or just taking time to listen. If we stay true to why we do all the things (building connections between people around a desire to know and serve Christ), then nothing that happens or fails to happen along the way is as big of a deal as we might fear.

And, I would say that this is a great way for all of us to think about the coming year. We all hope that some great things lie ahead, and we are probably all making plans to prepare for those great things. We might make resolutions to improve our habits, our health, our appearance, or our minds.

Continued above...

There is nothing wrong with that! But whatever we resolve to do will probably not intrinsically change us. I will probably never stop feeling anxious about chaotic events and will probably always waste time fussing over the wrong thing. But I can keep praying for the Holy Spirit to work in me so that, amid the inevitable chaos, I might see and act upon those opportunities for human connection. And I can remind myself to be thankful in all circumstances, to pray no matter what is happening, and to allow joy in Jesus Christ to be part of me always.

I have no plan for a "New Year, New Me," but I do think "same old me" with more gratitude, prayerfulness and joy would be a welcome change, and more of what God intends for me in my life. Maybe instead of a New Me, I will find I am becoming More Me, the me I was created to be, less dependent on image or outcomes, less fearful, and more trusting that God has got me and this world in hand. I hope you will find you too are becoming More You, focused on and blessed by God's purpose for your life, and that some of our KidsMin or other events in the Holy Trinity community will help you with that. Who knows, the connections you find may become your most important thing!

Lynnette Dobberpuhl

Children, Youth & Family Coordinator
kidsandfamilies@htumc.org
651-492-8188



January Mission of the Month



Families & Individuals Sharing Hope, or FISH

has been formed in Scott County with a mission to partner together to meet human needs so that individuals will be able to live healthy, transformed lives.

FISH is a network of organizations which operates as a nonprofit and is designed to help our partners meet the needs of their clients, parishioners, and community members. When a registered FISH partner submits a need, FISH posts the need to the Partner network with the hope that a partner or an affiliate can help the person in transition.

Fish partners are representatives of the faith community, local government and education entities, service organizations and nonprofits, and businesses which serve Scott County residents and agree that by partnering together we can meet human need in our community.

Some common needs include...

- Clothing and Personal Needs
- Food
- Furniture & Household
- Medical/Dental
- Mental Health/Substance Abuse Recovery
- Mortgage/Rent
- Transportation/Vehicle Repairs
- Utilities
- Domestic Issues
- Children's Items
- Legal
- Employment



Thank you for donating
**\$1,317 to FMSC (Feed My
Starving Children)** during
the month of November.



Thank you for your donations which help fund the food ingredients which FMSC volunteers then hand-pack into meals. These meals are then donated to FMSC food partners around the world, where kids are fed and lives are saved!



Thank you for your generous donations of hats, mittens, gloves and scarves which were given to **Hats & Mittens**, an organization that provides over 25,000 sets of hats, mittens, gloves & scarves annually to over 150 organizations across the Twin Cities and 7 metro counties.



Wow! Thank you for donating these most needed items to R.O.C.K. (Reaching Our Community's Kids) so they can offer their Power Pack Program to all families who feel they could benefit from these items.

Core Team and Finance Updates...

The Core Team met on Monday, December 19 at 6:30pm. Highlights of the discussion include:

- Outreach: There have been a number of inspiring events and activities in recent months, and there are many more ahead we are looking forward to. Our thanks go out to everyone who has participated in these events with their leadership and/or participation, and we hope your enthusiasm continues! In particular, the United Women of Faith were noted for their ongoing leadership and connectional group activities.
- Possible sale of property: the conversation is ongoing, and approval is being sought to bring it to the congregation for a discussion and a potential vote. Concrete information will be disseminated as it becomes available, but questions can be brought to Pastor Chad or Tanya Alemu, chair of Core Team.
- Leadership: We are grateful that new leaders have been identified; four new trustees to help manage and maintain our facilities and grounds, two more team members have emerged to help with Finance, and a new missions coordinator has stepped up. We continue to seek 2+ people to help advise in our Staff Parish Relations Team (the group that helps guide staffing decisions and support) and 2+ for the Core Team.
- For short term help we are seeking someone to coordinate soup suppers for Lent, recruiting and scheduling soup cooks, organizing what we will offer for sides, and scheduling support for set up, serving and clean up. People are often willing to volunteer to help do the jobs, but getting someone to organize, schedule and stay on top of the plan is extremely helpful for a positive experience for all.

The next Core Team meeting will be on Monday, January 22, 2024 at 6:30pm. Full minutes of Core Team meetings can be found at <https://htumc.org/core-team/>.



I am writing this as we head into the Christmas weekend. I only have numbers through November. At this point we are a minus \$18,000.00 and change. But that is good. When we started the year, we were a minus \$62,000.00.

As I have said in the past, we have been able to use investments and move money from the General Fund to the Operating Fund. We will be okay. A big thank you to all who pledged in 2023 and for those of you who gave, but didn't pledge, another big thank you for your contributions.

2024 is looking better than 2023. Pledging is up. Inflation is down. We will have challenges, but I feel we are turning the corner. We have a lot of good things happening in the church.

Patrick Rasmussen
Prasmussen68@gmail.com

2023 End-of-Year Donations

In order for a donation to be credited to your 2023 giving statement, checks must be dated December 31, 2023 or before and must be received in the church office by Tuesday, January 2, 2024.



Church Conference

An all church conference will be held on
Sunday, January 7 at 10:30am (after worship)
in the fellowship hall.
All are invited to attend.

2024 Pledge Update

We have received 57 pledges to date (just 3 short of the total number received in 2023.) If you have not yet returned your pledge card for 2024, please do so as soon as possible. Thank you!



United
Women
in Faith

United Women in Faith Gathering for JANUARY

Tuesday, January 9th at 2:00pm

-Meet in Fellowship Hall at the church-

Join us as we support local & global missions
and gather for fellowship, devotions,
prayer, study & mission business.

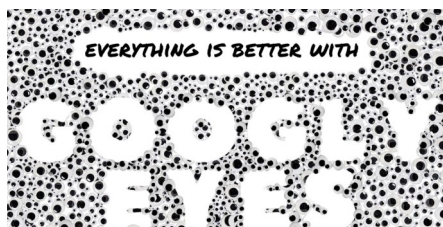
Please contact Sharon Dougherty for questions at
sdsrdougherty@gmail.com or 612-280-2103.

The Event

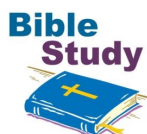
January 20

1-7pm

**Messiah Church
Plymouth**



Youth grades 6-12 and leaders are invited to join us for The Event - Saturday January 20, 1-7 p.m. (come having had lunch.) The day will include a couple great talks that encourage us to always be "on the lookout" for all the opportunities God puts before us to love and serve others. You'll have some time for church group discussion, a real-life game of Clue, a service project, and music! Pizza dinner provided. Cost for The Event is \$30/youth participant (adults are free). Contact Lynnette to register by January 14.



Lakefront Bible Study

January 2 & 16

from 1:00-2:30pm

Lakefront Plaza Commons Room

The group is currently studying the book
Beatitudes From the Back Side by J. Ellsworth Kalas.

This book is available on Amazon.

This is a non-denominational group. All are welcome!
Call Barb Bollinger with questions at 612-670-1847.

Trinity Readers

Tuesday, January 30

1:30pm at the Parsonage



For January, please read the book you received at the Christmas book exchange. We will discuss at our January gathering what books we will read as a group. Contact Sandy Feldhake with questions.

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH HAPPENINGS!

Holy Trinity's United Women in Faith recently gathered for a Christmas lunch at Charlie's on Prior. We celebrated a successful year of mission giving and fellowship.



A Special Mission Recognition was given to Connie Scott for her individual mission work. From the *UWF Daily Prayer Guide*, she contacts United Methodist missionaries, deaconesses and home missionaries who carry out God's work. She also writes letters to our legislators about issues that UWF keeps in tune with. Congratulations, Connie!



Sharon Dougherty, Connie Scott, Nancy Iverson



The group collected 35 Christmas stockings for the FISH Network to be filled and given to homeless families to make their Christmas Eve a little brighter.



January 2024

Holy Trinity UMC

(952) 447-2990

office@htumc.org

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
	1  7pm Al-Anon at the parsonage	2  1-2:30pm Lakefront Bible Study 7pm CoDA at the parsonage	3 8:30am Moment of Prayer 6:15-7pm 7th/8th Confirmation Class at the parsonage	4 6pm Veterans AA at the parsonage	5	6
7 9:30am Worship/ Live-Stream 10:30am Church Conference	8 7pm Al-Anon at the parsonage	9  United Women in Faith 2:00pm UWF 7pm CoDA at the parsonage	10 8:30am Moment of Prayer	11 6pm Veterans AA at the parsonage	12	13
14 9:30am Worship/ Live-Stream	15 7pm Al-Anon at the parsonage	16 1-3:15pm Quilters  1-2:30pm Lakefront Bible Study 7pm CoDA at the parsonage	17 8:30am Moment of Prayer 6:15-7pm 7th/8th Confirmation Class at the parsonage 7pm Choir Rehearsal	18 6pm Veterans AA at the parsonage	19	20 1-7PM The Event Youth Retreat
21 9:30am Worship/ Live-Stream	22 6:30pm Core Team Meeting 7pm Al-Anon at the parsonage	23 7pm CoDA at the parsonage	24 8:30am Moment of Prayer 6:15-7pm 7th/8th Confirmation Class at the parsonage 7pm Choir Rehearsal	25 6pm Veterans AA at the parsonage	26	27
28 9:30am Worship/ Live-Stream	29 7pm Al-Anon at the parsonage	30  1:30pm Trinity Readers 7pm CoDA at the parsonage	31 8:30am Moment of Prayer 6:15-7pm 7th/8th Confirmation Class at the parsonage 7pm Choir Rehearsal			

Holy Trinity United Methodist Church



16150 Arcadia Avenue SE
Prior Lake, Minnesota, 55372

Worship: 9:30am (in-person & online)

Pastor: Rev. Chad Gilbertson
(952) 356-4616 pastor@htumc.org

Family Ministries: Lynnette Dobberpuhl
(651) 492-8188 kidsandfamilies@htumc.org

Church Admin: Tina Chant
(952) 447-2990 office@htumc.org

Church website: www.htumc.org

January

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