



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!”*

February, 2024

“Gospel of Luke”

United Methodist pastor and author Adam Hamilton tells the story of how and when he became a Christian:



It was as I read the Gospel of Luke and saw its emphasis on Jesus’ concern for the lowly, the marginalized, the broken, the picked on and pushed around, that I came to love Jesus. On the night I finished reading Luke, I dropped to my knees next to my bed and prayed. “Jesus, I want to follow you. I’d like to be your disciple. I know I’m just fourteen years old, but if you can use me in any way, I offer my life to you.”

My life was changed by reading Luke’s account of the life, message, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus...As a young man reading this Gospel, I felt in its words that Jesus would befriend me. I hope you feel that way as you study this Gospel too.

This Lenten season, join us as we embark on a journey into and through the Gospel of Luke. Using Adam Hamilton’s book *Luke: Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts, and Outlaws*, we will see how Jesus came to pick up the lowly. In the Gospel of Luke, a first-century portrait of Jesus, we find stories of Jesus’ ministry with ordinary, unexpected people. They weren’t perfect. Many of them were struggling and didn’t have their acts together. Some of them were outsiders or even outlaws. Whoever they were, Jesus brought good news of God’s kingdom to those who most needed to hear it. That includes you and me.

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Pastor Chad continued...

Here are the key themes from the series:

Wednesday, February 14, 6:30pm: Ash Wednesday - With Holy Communion and the imposition of ashes, music and prayer, we begin the Lenten season. We gather this day to confess and repent to realign ourselves with the truth that God is God, and we are not.

Sunday, February 18, 9:30am: "The Journey Begins" - Jesus came to lift up the lowly. This is a central theme of Luke's Gospel, which we find from the opening stories as God chooses and uses the "very old" and young people to bring about God's purposes.

Sunday, February 25, 9:30am: "Seeing and Valuing" - Jesus valued women, saw them, had compassion for them, ministered to them, and lifted them up. Jesus saw them as children of God, and Jesus sees you.

Sunday, March 3, 9:30am: "Tell Me the Stories of Jesus" - Unique parables in Luke point to Jesus' mission to reach the outsiders, outcasts, and outlaws.

Sunday, March 10, 9:30am: "A Pause in the Journey" - The healing of the Samaritan leper demonstrates Jesus' passion for lifting up the lowly.

Sunday, March 17, 9:30am: "The Beginning of (Not) the End" - In the final week of Jesus' life, his teachings and encounters with others expresses what matters most to him.

Sunday, March 24, 9:30am: Palm Sunday - On this day, we will begin with the traditional procession with palms and then the Chancel Choir will be presenting their Lenten cantata.

Thursday, March 28, 6:30pm: Maundy Thursday - "Crucified!" - Jesus dies as a criminal, hung on a cross between two outlaws. Even in death Jesus continues to identify with the lowly.

Sunday, March 31, 9:30am: Easter Sunday - "Alive!" - The Resurrection is God's final act of lifting up the lowly. In the Resurrection, Jesus defeats death and evil.

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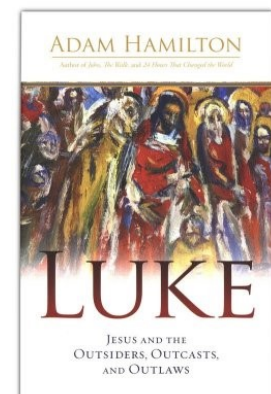
I hope you'll join us each week as we worship together - in person or online. Remember, ALL are welcome, so think about those in your circles of relationships who don't have a church home, or perhaps don't know about the life and the love of Jesus, and invite them to join you. You just might be giving them the greatest gift of all - a changed life.

I also hope that you'll consider the other opportunities that are available during the season of Lent:

- Wednesday evening Soup Supper and Small Groups - you can find more information on page 6 in this newsletter.
- Sunday morning small group study - we will gather following worship to extend the conversation about the Gospel of Luke. Please plan to purchase a copy of the book *Luke: Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts, and Outlaws* (by Adam Hamilton). We will begin with Chapter 1 on February 18, and will conclude our study on March 24.
- Read through the Gospel of Luke on your own. Begin on Ash Wednesday and end on Palm Sunday. A 40-Day reading plan will be available at church or online.
- We also plan to have a 40-day blog of readings from the Gospel of Luke. These readings will be captured on video, and will feature YOU - members and friends of the church (all ages are welcome!). You can record yourself or we'd be glad to help. Sign up for a day (or more) on the paper signup at church or online here: <https://bit.ly/2024DailyLentVideos>.

I pray that as we read and study Luke and see Jesus' concern for those who were considered unimportant, we will hear a hopeful and inspiring word for our lives today.

Peace,
Pastor Chad



Children, Youth and Family...

And Let All That You Do Be Done in Love

I grew up in a community where nearly everyone I knew belonged to a few Christian churches and if you did too, you may find it hard to relate to what kids experience today. They are surrounded by people who are confident in different belief systems, including those who believe there is no God. This isn't bad, people do need to learn to co-exist with others who believe differently, but if our kids hear that their beliefs are wrong, or even silly, they need support from their family and church community (not just a pastor and a church building.) To help them find a solid faith foundation kids need to know what we believe and why. If we don't stay alert and make examining and growing in our own faith a priority, we become part of the culture that says, "faith isn't that important." Being clear and sharing what we believe helps our kids have confidence in their own faith, in a way that will help them in times of real need.

But to be able to do that we have to consider our own honest faith questions. Admitting we don't have all the answers, and that sometimes we even have doubts can make us feel vulnerable. But God already knows our doubts and our ignorance and welcomes our honest questions. What we learn about God and Jesus in Sunday school and Confirmation is only a beginning. Every new experience, good and bad, can bring us closer to God when we continue to keep God at the center. Every time we wrestle with our faith, inviting the Holy Spirit into the struggle, we have an opportunity to grow in understanding and in all the other blessings God promises us. When we do this as an intergenerational community we grow together, supporting and learning from each other. What a beautiful gift to ourselves, and what a beautiful legacy to give to our younger generations.

It may be easier to quietly hope that whatever we believe saves us (even if we aren't sure what it is we believe, or what it is we are being saved from.) But I don't think that is enough for our kids anymore. They get a lot of messages about how disastrous everything is. They need a powerful God who is steadfast, who will inspire them to be courageous and hopeful, who will equip them to be strong in difficulties.

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Is that the kind of faith they see in us? If what we believe isn't giving us hope, our kids won't know why they should believe.

An examined faith is challenging and rewarding. A growing faith gives us momentum, as opposed to a stagnant faith that must be dragged around (and who has the energy for that?) How do we get that kind of faith? One thing Sunday school teachers have often said to me is that every time they taught a children's lesson, they learned or re-learned something important. People who get involved in group studies at church, or who read and pray regularly at home often say it helps them feel centered in God and growing in faith. We have several opportunities during Lent to dig deeper into our faith journey, with others or on our own. Whether you have kids or not, (or if you are a kid,) I hope there will be something there that you are willing to try, that will help you as you stand firm in your faith. Peace!

Lynnette Dobberpuhl

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



The Event—January 20, 2024

February Mission of the Month



Simpson Housing Services began as an emergency overnight shelter at Simpson United Methodist Church in 1982. For four decades, they have been a leading nonprofit helping people experiencing homelessness. In response to unmet community needs, their key programs have grown to include the following: emergency shelter; supportive housing programs for youth, single adults, and families; and developmental and educational services for children. They annually support 2,000 people experiencing and transitioning out of homelessness, including 300 families with 650 children.

Simpson’s Commitment to Advancing Racial Equity

Simpson holds steadfast to their values, embracing the uniqueness and dignity of each person and advocating against the injustices of society. Together, they are committed to working for racial equity and ending homelessness.

Their Values:

- They believe that everybody has the right to safe and affordable housing.
- They celebrate and embrace the uniqueness and dignity of every person.
- They encourage people to draw upon their strengths and promote the power of self-advocacy.
- They advocate against the injustices of society that cause homelessness and poverty.
- They strive to create a collaborative community with the individuals they serve, within Simpson, and with the greater community.

Simpson’s Build-Up Campaign

The Build-Up Campaign supports a new shelter and housing facility, new program and administration space, and funding for sustainability. It is Simpson’s largest fundraising campaign in its 40 years of service. Demolition was completed in October 2023, with construction set to begin in early 2024.

Thank you for donating **\$1,419 to Loaves & Fishes** during the month of December.



Your generous donations help Loaves & Fishes provide healthy meals to Minnesotans in areas where need is greatest.

Inclusion Starts with I

by Lori Boynton

February Inclusion Focus:

Honoring Black History and Exploring Anti-Racism

In 1976, President Gerald Ford officially designated February as Black History Month. It was the first official effort to raise awareness by paying tribute to the generations of African Americans who struggled with adversity to achieve full citizenship in American Society. In addition, Black History Month honors the innumerable contributions and sacrifices, from 1518 to the present day, made by Black Americans in the arts, music, politics, military service, etc.

February was chosen to recognize both President Lincoln and Frederick Douglas who, born in the second week of February, made enormous contributions to end the enslavement of Black people and promote their advancement. Honoring Black history and, more importantly, learning about it in the workplace, schools, and places of worship help build community, connection and inclusion. Fun Fact: Canada also celebrates Black History month in February and the UK and Ireland celebrate in October.

Anti-racism is defined by the National League of U.S. Cities as fighting racism, with the goal of actively changing policies, behaviors, and beliefs regarding racist ideas and actions. Racism is not only about individuals and their actions, but is a system of oppression that upholds the belief that one race is superior to others. Created by and upheld through policies, practices and procedures, racism divides us and causes inequities between racial groups.

More resources and information will be available during the month. Remember, **Inclusion starts with I.**



Core Team and Finance Updates...

The Core Team met on Monday, January 22 at 6:30pm. Highlights of the discussion include:

- We welcome Dustin Guenther as a new member of the Core Team in 2024.
- Finance: This year we have received 60 pledges of \$203,000 (up \$31K compared to 2023). With the current budget we have a shortfall of approximately \$16K. We have set up a Venmo Charity account to make one-time giving, occasional online offerings, and purchases of items such as books and event registrations more convenient. More information will be coming soon.
- The District Committee is expected to respond with authorization to go ahead with negotiations with Northland Development regarding a land purchase. This would allow Holy Trinity to begin scheduling multiple round table discussions seeking input and answering questions on the issue beginning as early as the week of Feb 5, leading up to a church conference tentatively scheduled for February 25 for a vote to approve our entry into formal negotiations with Northland with the intent to sign a purchase agreement.
- The one-year anniversary of becoming a Reconciling Congregation will be March 5.
- Rene Meyer has agreed to help organize soup suppers for Lent. Please support her and provide a bit of hospitality by signing up to help one or more Wednesdays between Feb 14 and March 20.

The next Core Team meeting will be on Monday, February 26, 2024 at 6:30pm. Full minutes of Core Team meetings can be found at <https://htumc.org/core-team/>.

Happy New Year.

First let me wrap up 2023.



We had a Budget shortfall of \$15,129.59. The key here, is that all of our bills have been paid. As I have mentioned before, we started 2023 with a shortfall of \$61,000.

So my thanks goes out to you for helping us minimize the shortfall in the budget.

Here is the starting line for 2024.

We were given 60 pledges for \$202,906.00. An increase of \$31,000.00 from last year, with the same number of pledges.

That is fantastic, I know that those of you who didn't pledge will still be giving as you have in the past. Again, I thank you for your contributions to the church.

The approved budget for 2024 is: -15,710.00. I have every confidence that we will erase that deficit by the end of the year.

Our investments continue to do well. The building fund increased in value by \$8,657.30.

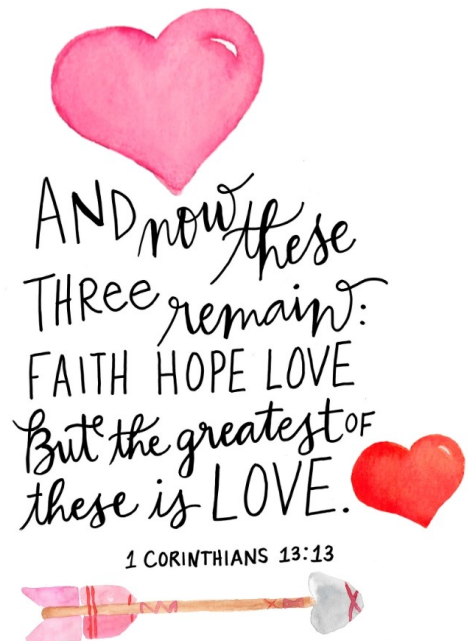
The projections are still very good.

Thank you all for the support you give the church. I don't mean just financial.

Patrick Rasmussen (prasmussen68@gmail.com)



Thank you for donating \$1427 to our Christmas offering which will help support Holy Trinity's ongoing ministries of study and worship, mission and fellowship, and also allow new ministries to be developed and nurtured.





A light meal of soup and 'simple' sandwiches will be served on Wednesday nights at 5:30pm, from February 14 to March 20. **However, we need your help.** We need people to make soup, bring dessert, set up, serve and clean up, plus more. Please take a look at the signup and help where you can.

<https://bit.ly/htumcSOUPERheroes2024>



United
Women
in Faith

United Women in Faith Gathering for February

Tuesday, February 13th 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 Sandy Feldhake with questions at sfeldha1@msn.com



Lakefront Bible Study

February 6 & 20

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, February 27

1:30pm at the Parsonage



The book for February will be selected at the Trinity Readers gathering on January 30th. Please contact Sandy Feldhake with questions sfeldha1@msn.com.



Lent Small Group Studies

On Wednesday nights during Lent (February 21, 28, March 6, 13 & 20), small groups for spiritual formation will be offered. These small groups will meet from 6:15-7:15pm. A small group opportunity will also be offered on Sunday mornings (February 18, 25, March 3, 10, 17 & 24) at 10:30am. **Sign up here:** <https://bit.ly/Lent2024smallgroupsHTUMC> or on the paper signups at church.

Sunday mornings at 10:30am

Luke: Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts, and

Outlaws by Adam Hamilton (led by Pastor Chad)

"Explore the life, teachings, death, and resurrection of Jesus as told in the Gospel of Luke. Through Luke's stories we find Jesus' care and compassion for all as he welcomes sinners and outcasts. As we study Luke and see Jesus' concern for those who were considered unimportant, we hear a hopeful and inspiring word for our lives today. "

Wednesday evenings from 6:15-7:15pm

Women at the Cross: Experiencing the Wonder and Mystery of Christ's Love

by Linda Lesniewski

(led by Carol Ottoson)
"This book presents the women who were present at Christ's crucifixion. It helps you discover why they came, and why other women continue to come back to the cross throughout the years."

Multiplying Love: A Vision of United Methodist Life Together

by Paul W. Chilcote (led by Pastor Chad)
"This book underscores what matters most and stands in contrast to divisive misreadings of essential Methodist teachings. It helps us embrace anew the Wesleyan vision of love of Jesus as central to what we believe and how we live."

Creed: What Christians Believe And Why







by Adam Hamilton (led by Lynnette Dobberpuhl)

"In this book, Hamilton considers important questions of life, reality, and truth. He explores not only what Christians believe, but also why they believe it and why it matters through the Apostles Creed."



February 2024

Holy Trinity UMC
 (952) 447-2990
office@htumc.org

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
				1 10am Dynamite Prayer Group 6pm Veterans AA at the parsonage 7pm Dynamite Prayer Group (ZOOM)	2	3
4 9:30am Worship/ Live-Stream 10:30am Dynamite Prayer Group	5 7pm Al-Anon at the parsonage	6  Bible Study 1-2:30pm Lakefront Bible Study 7pm CoDA at the parsonage	7 8:30am Moment of Prayer 4pm Bells Practice 6:15-7pm 8th grade Confirmation Class at the parsonage 7pm Choir Rehearsal	8 10am Dynamite Prayer Group 6pm Veterans AA at the parsonage 7pm Dynamite Prayer Group (ZOOM)	9	10
11 9:30am Worship/ Live-Stream 	12 7pm Al-Anon at the parsonage	13  United Women in Faith 2:00pm UW Faith 7pm CoDA at the parsonage	14 8:30am Moment of Prayer  5:30pm Soup Supper 6:30pm Worship	15 6pm Veterans AA at the parsonage	16	17
18 9:30am Worship/ Live-Stream 10:30am Small Group	19 7pm Al-Anon at the parsonage	20 1-3:15pm Quilters  Bible Study 1-2:30pm Lakefront Bible Study 7pm CoDA at the parsonage	21 8:30am Moment of Prayer 4pm Bells Practice 5:30pm Soup Supper 6:15pm Small Groups 7pm Choir Rehearsal	22 6pm Veterans AA at the parsonage	23	24
25 9:30am Worship/ Live-Stream 10:30am Small Group	26 6:30pm Core Team Meeting 7pm Al-Anon at the parsonage	27  Book Club 1:30pm Trinity Readers 7pm CoDA at the parsonage	28 8:30am Moment of Prayer 4pm Bells Practice 5:30pm Soup Supper 6:15pm Small Groups 7pm Choir Rehearsal	29 6pm Veterans AA at the parsonage		

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



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