



# 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!"

### April, 2024



### After Easter, What Then?

As I write this, I am preparing for Palm Sunday worship. At the same time, I am thinking about Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. And most certainly, Easter Sunday is on my mind. We are nearing the end of the season of Lent, including the meaningful and impactful events of Holy Week and Easter.

It's a season that is filled with activity and remembrance and celebration. Many of us will gather with family and friends to celebrate the day of Easter, complete with dyed eggs and chocolate bunnies.

But on April 1 (no fooling!), that season will be over, and then what? Where will we find our meaning? How will we remember the resurrection and the hope that comes with it?

Worship leader and poet Ann Weems encourages us to continue to search for "new resurrections" each and every day. She writes:

*We in the church are in danger of becoming tearless people,  
Unable to rage even in a starless abyss.  
We have imitated a smiling society, glossing over the hurt, the oppression,  
The peacelessness on earth, or we have become caustic and cynical and despairing,  
Insisting on looking the other way as our church members crawl to the altar,  
The scraps of their lives in their arms.*

*We were created for covenant keeping and yet, we are in danger  
Of becoming a blindhearted people, buying into the system,  
Placing our hope with kings and corporations.  
Have we not heard? Have we not seen?*

*Continued on next page...*

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## Pastor Chad continued...

*We persist in clinging to the way things are,  
or eagerly placing our faith  
In the newest religious fad, the latest book on  
how-to Christianity (in 10 easy steps),  
Or the current slogans presented as though  
they were the Word of God.*

*We are programming and papering ourselves  
into perpetuity,  
and rationalizing and excusing our  
immortality.*

*We spend our energy in complaining,  
gloomily forecasting our future together.  
We panic for positions in employment and  
committee, with each special interest group  
vying for first place in the kingdom.*

*Perhaps it's time for remembering that Jesus  
stood in the Jordan to be baptized with the  
others, long ago casting his lot, not with the  
good church people, but with the poor –  
wherever that poverty might emerge.*

*His name is Emmanuel, and yet, individually  
and corporately,  
We have named him "GOD-WITH-ME."*

*Have we not seen? Have we not heard?*

*In the light of the cross, the alternative is  
anything but hopeless.  
On the contrary! There is every scriptural  
indication that we are called to change who  
we are into the kingdom of God.  
Where change is possible, new resurrections  
loom!*

"In Search of New Resurrections" by Ann Weems

May this season after Lent and Easter provide us with an opportunity to change our way of thinking and being. May our focus be on God's kingdom, where truly there is a place for ALL. And in doing so, may we experience resurrection again and again.

Searching for New Resurrections-  
Pastor Chad

## New Pastor Announcement

The United Methodist Church, Minnesota Annual Conference, has announced that it is the intention of Bishop Lanette Plambeck to appoint the Reverend Linda Leigh Brown as minister of Holy Trinity United Methodist Church in Prior Lake. Acting on behalf of the congregation, our Staff Parish Relations Team has affirmed the Bishop's intention. Reverend Leigh is currently serving at Coralville UMC in Iowa, where she has served as their Pastor since 2015.

When the appointment was presented to SPRT, we found Pastor Leigh to be a perfect missional fit for Holy Trinity UMC. She has led two churches in their process to becoming Reconciling congregations; and more importantly to Holy Trinity, she has led them in living into their more Inclusive identity within the community. She is very excited about our Bread Oven Ministry, and is looking forward to her first pizza event in Prior Lake. She is most comfortable leading and working collaboratively with staff and laity, which is exactly how Holy Trinity works today.

In terms of transition, some of our dates are still "to be determined," but the known calendar items are:

- June 9th – Pastor Chad's last Sunday preaching at Holy Trinity. Included in that service will be an Order of Farewell, followed by a "thank you Chad" fellowship time after the service.
- July 7th – Pastor Leigh's first Sunday preaching at Holy Trinity. Included in that service will be a Celebratory Ritual of Welcome.
- TBD – some time in August, Pastor Leigh's first pizza party.

Please help us welcome Pastor Leigh to Holy Trinity. Each church member's supportive prayers and acts of kindness during the transition period will be greatly appreciated by all of the involved persons.



**Rev. Linda Leigh Brown**

April Mission of the Month



The Disability Ministries committee believes all people, including those with disabilities, are created in God's image and have sacred worth. We believe that it is vital to the body of Christ to celebrate the spiritual gifts of people with disabilities and incorporate them into the life of the church. Through advocacy, education, and empowerment, we strive to fully include people with disabilities in worship, missions, leadership and ministry – throughout the United Methodist Church.

**Disability Theology**—We engage pastors and leaders in theological reflection and offer resources celebrating that "God created humankind in his image" (Gen. 1:27).

**Disability Justice**—Because "the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable" (1 Cor. 12:22) we empower individuals with disabilities and advocate within United Methodist structures for full access to leadership and a place at the table.

**Disability Hospitality**—"To equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ" (Eph. 4:12) we equip congregations, camps, and conferences to make our faith communities and ministries places of true belonging for all.



Thank you for donating \$965 to Simpson Housing Services during the month of February.

Your generous donations will help Simpson Housing Services fulfill their mission to house, support, and advocate for people experiencing homelessness.

Inclusion Starts with I

By Rene Meyer

"LET'S THINK DIFFERENTLY"

The I Team focus for April is Neurodiversity. What does that mean?

According to Nicole Baumer, MD, MEd, and Julie Frueh, MD in an article on the Harvard Medical School website, Neurodiversity describes the idea that people experience and interact with the world around them in many different ways. There is no one "right way" of thinking, learning, and behaving, and differences are not viewed as deficits. Judy Singer, an Australian sociologist coined the term neurodiversity to promote equality and inclusion of "neurological minorities".

Autistic persons, people with ADHD and other neurodivergent diagnoses are in our families, neighborhoods, workplaces, and churches. Better understanding the ways these persons want or need to relate to people, any unique challenges they may live with, and how we can support them will foster a welcoming church home for all.

Please take the opportunity to read the posted materials and take a handout located in the Narthex and Fellowship Hall. In addition, on **Sunday April 21st following worship you are encouraged and invited to join us at the parsonage for an exercise demonstrating how a neurodivergent mind responds to environmental stimuli.** We will also feature conversation with members of our church community who are part of the neurodiverse community. Hopefully you will take away a new understanding of how challenging it can be to do an ordinary task when your brain functions differently.

This month and going forward let's all think differently, embracing and appreciating everyone's uniqueness. Remember, Inclusion Starts with I.



## Core Team and Finance Updates...

The Core Team met Monday, March 18 at 6:30 pm. Highlights of the discussion included:

- The Finance report shows a balance of -\$5,350 through the month of February. To date, \$5,775 has been pledged/donated to the "Close the Gap" campaign. The campaign has also generated a number of good ideas that will be reviewed at the next Core Team meeting.
- The Bread Oven Ministry has two events currently scheduled: pizza baking for Pastor Chad's last day at HTUMC (June 9), and cinnamon roll baking in September on the Sunday The Flames will be here. Additional dates/events were suggested: VBS, Night to Unite, STORM Camp. Tanya will talk to Rene about these opportunities.
- Information from a webinar attended by Tanya and Pastor Chad was shared. One key insight: churches are faltering because they are more concerned with self-preservation than self-donation. How might we think about using our facilities for greater missional impact?
- The I-Team will help us focus on neurodiversity during the month of April, including an interactive experience after worship on April 21. Ellie Krug will present "Gray Area Thinking" on the evening of May 5 at HTUMC. Members are asked to sign up by the end of March. After that, registration will be open to people from the community and other churches.

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

### Finance Update

At the end of February our donations are lagging behind last year. Although our pledges for 2024 have increased from 2023, we are \$2427.23 behind last year, and are a minus \$5000.00 vs the budget for the year.

As of this writing, we have received 21 donations for Close the Gap, for a total of \$5775.00

The Close That Gap fundraiser is very important to the future of the Church. Except for 2022, we have been running a deficit. In 2022, the church received a grant for employee retention. That grant saved the year from being in the red.

We have \$92,000.00 in our General Fund. \$60,000.00 is a two-month reserve. That leaves \$32,000.00 available to us to pay bills. We will have to dip into that \$32,000.00 to pay some bills this month.

According to General Conference documents, in 2023, 1491 Methodist Churches closed for reasons other than disaffiliation. 237 closed because of financial reasons. I hope Holy Trinity will not be in that category.

During the conversations regarding the sale of a portion of the property, we heard over and over, how the church has gone through difficult times in the past, but how everyone stepped up. *(continued above...)*

This is that time again. It is time to step up. Maybe you are not able to help financially. But look for other ways. We want your ideas.

I am looking for a grant writer. I spent a good portion of my career working in the non-profit sector. But we always had someone who was responsible for writing grants. If that is you, contact me.

Patrick Rasmussen ([prasmussen68@gmail.com](mailto:prasmussen68@gmail.com))

### REMEMBER—Venmo Is Now Available!

You will now be able to scan the QR code below or enter @holy-trinity-umc in the Venmo App to give any amount. **Please use the space provided to specify the purpose of the funds.** If no reason is provided, it will be added to the general fund. The giving will be tracked and included in your year end statement. We are hopeful this new and easy way of giving will be a great option for people in our congregation as well as visitors!

\*As with other online giving options, there is a small fee assessed to the church when using Venmo.



Scan the QR code or enter @holy-trinity-umc in the Venmo App. Look for our logo to make sure it's us!





## Church Announcements...



United  
Women  
in Faith

### United Women in Faith Gathering for April

Tuesday, April 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](mailto:sdsrdougherty@gmail.com) or 612-280-2103.



### Lakefront Bible Study

April 2 & 16

from 1:00-2:30pm

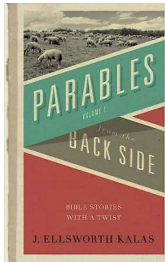
Lakefront Plaza Commons Room

The group is currently studying the book *Parables from the Back Side Volume 1* 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, April 30

1:30pm at the Parsonage



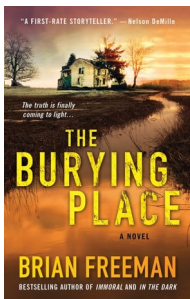
If you enjoy reading and discussing books, join us!

The book for April:

*The Burying Place*

by Brian Freeman

*One cold night. Two shocking mysteries... Bestselling author Brian Freeman delivers a thrilling novel of psychological suspense.*



### United Women in Faith Church Sale

UW Faith are planning a church sale on **Saturday, June 22nd**. We are looking for 16 people to sell both "garage sale" items such as housewares, children's items, sporting items etc. and new craft or hobby type items. The sale is a fundraiser to support UW Faith missions which in turn support women and children both nationally and internationally.

There is a \$25.00 fee to have a table in the Fellowship Hall. Each seller will be responsible to price and sell their own items on Saturday. Sellers will keep any proceeds they make from the sale. With the Prior Lake Farmer's Market happening that day as well, we hope to draw the community to the sale. So please support us by signing up for a table and selling your items.

To sign up or to ask questions contact:

Sandy Feldhake [sfeldha1@msn.com](mailto:sfeldha1@msn.com)

Sharon Dougherty [sdsrdougherty@gmail.com](mailto:sdsrdougherty@gmail.com)



Dan and Ardys Sabin

Address: 5043 East Oak Point Drive

Prior Lake, MN 55372

Dan Email Address: [dansabin48@gmail.com](mailto:dansabin48@gmail.com)

Ardys Email Address: [ardyssabin@gmail.com](mailto:ardyssabin@gmail.com)

Dan cell: 218-255-1498

Ardys cell: 612-940-6731

Home phone: 952-923-1161

**Gray Area Thinking<sup>®</sup> with Ellie Krug**  
**Sunday, May 5 · 6:30 - 8:30pm**  
**Holy Trinity United Methodist Church**

We've all heard the phrase, "diversity and inclusion", but what does it actually mean to make an organization or even our personal lives more diverse and inclusive? How can we get beyond grouping and labeling of other humans according to the color of their skin, the religion they practice, or the country in which they were born? Can we really build a just and inclusive world, especially in this time of such division?

Even more, how can we make our organizations and lives more inclusive of those who are "Other" and different from "us?" Isn't it time to at least consider a new approach to human inclusivity—where all humans regardless of differences are valued?

Join national speaker, transgender writer and "human inclusionist" Ellen "Ellie" Krug as she talks about organizational culture and culture change and conducts her highly valued human inclusivity training, Gray Area Thinking<sup>®</sup>. This training will provide an easy-to-understand toolset on how to be more welcoming of anyone who is "Other" in our society.

Park in the lot behind the church, where a ramp is available to access the rear entrance. The event will be on the lower level of the church in the Fellowship Hall.

This training is being offered free of cost, but we do need you to reserve your spot today!

<https://bit.ly/GrayAreaWithEllieKrug-HTUMC>



**Graduate Recognition**



Graduates, parents of graduates and grandparents/loved ones of graduates: we want to celebrate with you! If you have finished a training program, gotten a diploma, degree or certificate, or otherwise completed an educational program please contact Lynnette. **Grad recognition will be Sunday, June 2**, but time flies, and the sooner we connect the better we will be prepared to honor your accomplishment!



**Save the Date:**  
**STORM CAMP 2024**

**STORM Camp 2024 will be at Holy Trinity July 14-18** for kids who have finished 7th-12th grades, and adults

who want to make some lives better and be moved by amazing worship. STORM sends groups of five 7-12th grade youth and an adult driver to residences (and businesses, occasionally) with the tools needed to do a half-day to a day's work. We do things like yardwork, painting, cleaning, minor building projects and/or demolition. The staff team contacts those we're serving ahead of time and check the jobs, then they work with the teams who will do the work - typically checking in during the day and offering support as needed. We're not professionals, but pride ourselves on good work and good conversation with homeowners (as appropriate). STORM doesn't charge for our services (donations are accepted).

So if you have a job that needs doing, or a kid who is ready to stretch and possibly grow in confidence and love for Jesus, reach out to Lynnette for more info. <https://htumc.org/events/storm-camp-2024/>

**Camp Firelight VBS**  
**(August 5-8)**

invites us on a summer adventure where we learn to trust God no matter what situation life brings!



Through crafts, science, music and movement, recreation and stories from the Bible, campers learn to face their fears while trusting in God. Each day, we will face new challenges together as we explore timeless Bible stories that show how Old and New Testament Campers trusted God in the face of their own fears and went on to do great things in God's name.

There is no cost for this program! VBS includes dinner each night, a T-Shirt and lots of fun activities! T-shirts can only be guaranteed for kids who register by July 25. Visit link below to register...

<https://htumc.org/events/vacation-bible-2024/>



# April 2024

**Holy Trinity UMC**  
 (952) 447-2990  
[office@htumc.org](mailto:office@htumc.org)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b>  7pm Al-Anon at the parsonage	<b>2</b>  <b>1-2:30pm Lakefront Bible Study</b>  7pm CoDA at the parsonage	<b>3</b>  8:30am Moment of Prayer  4pm Bells Practice	<b>4</b>  6pm Veterans AA at the parsonage		
<b>7</b> 9:30am Worship/ Live-Stream  <b>10:30am I Team Meeting</b>	<b>8</b>  7pm Al-Anon at the parsonage	<b>9</b>  United Women in Faith  <b>2:00pm UW Faith</b>  7pm CoDA at the parsonage	<b>10</b>  8:30am Moment of Prayer  4pm Bells Practice 7pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>11</b>  6pm Veterans AA at the parsonage		
<b>14</b> 9:30am Worship/ Live-Stream	<b>15</b>  7pm Al-Anon at the parsonage	<b>16</b> 1-3:15pm Quilters  <b>1-2:30pm Lakefront Bible Study</b> 7pm CoDA at the parsonage	<b>17</b>  8:30am Moment of Prayer  4pm Bells Practice 7pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>18</b>  6pm Veterans AA at the parsonage		
<b>21</b> 9:30am Worship/ Live-Stream  <b>10:30am Neurodiversity Interactive Experience (Parsonage)</b>	<b>22</b>  <b>6:30pm Core Team Meeting</b>  7pm Al-Anon at the parsonage	<b>23</b>  7pm CoDA at the parsonage	<b>24</b>  8:30am Moment of Prayer  4pm Bells Practice 7pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>25</b>  6pm Veterans AA at the parsonage		
<b>28</b> 9:30am Worship/ Live-Stream	<b>29</b>  7pm Al-Anon at the parsonage	<b>30</b>  <b>1:30pm Trinity Readers</b>  7pm CoDA 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](mailto:pastor@htumc.org)

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

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

**Church website:** [www.htumc.org](http://www.htumc.org)



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