



# 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!”*

### November, 2024



### **Letting Go**

I call it the “closet of shame” – the one off the living room where I put all the boxes. You see, I live in a one-bedroom apartment. It is a decent sized apartment as they go, but storage is limited. It was a challenge after nine years in a 1700 square foot parsonage, but now I am back to where I was before I left Minnesota in 2015, when for many years I owned a one-bedroom condominium. Now, if a piece of furniture comes into my home, another piece must leave. The same with dishes and knick-knacks.

In the “closet of shame” are several boxes from my parents’ home – boxes of loose photographs that my mother never got around to organizing, boxes of papers that I don’t want to toss – their marriage license, birth records, etc., and little things that remind me of them. And the extra memorial cards, bulletins and candles from the funeral home. It’s hard to find the emotional energy to sort through these things, so they live in the closet of shame, a reminder of things unfinished.

It is much better than it was. When I went through items before I left Iowa, I found, underneath the boxes from my parents’ home, two large boxes filled with notes and papers from my seminary classes! And elsewhere, file folders containing job reviews from every job I have worked since college. And file folders for all of my volunteer work. Those reviews give you such a sense of accomplishment – or so I remember. I hadn’t actually looked in those files for at least 12 years.

Our homes are filled with memories. Around every corner and in every creak are the memories of laughter and love, and also some anger and grief, but it is the joy that tends to stay with us. In every item that occupies space is a memory of a person or event. Some things are infused with guilt as

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## Pastor Leigh continued...

well – how do you give up Aunt Edna’s dishes, even if you never really liked them? To sort through our house is to touch our memories, and also to touch our own mortality.

Before the move this summer I was talking to my sister on the phone, lamenting about the furniture and full closets and too-full filing cabinets, and how I just couldn’t seem to get things in order. “I’m overwhelmed with work!” I said. I just couldn’t get through it. Or, I just couldn’t get through it alone. My sister must have sensed this because she surprised me with this response: “I’m coming and we will go through it all.” You know your sister loves you when she is willing to help sort through your clutter.

My sister has many gifts. She is an artist and a retired banker. She knows what must be kept and what has no purpose. So, as we went through pictures, she discarded all the multiple, unflattering or poorly aimed photos, and the pictures of people that we couldn’t identify. And... she “encouraged” me to let go of the files. All of the evidence of my work history and my passion – dumped into the recycle bin in the garage. “I will have no evidence that I was ever there!” I said. My sister informed me that they keep records on that sort of thing – not that I will ever need it.

I think these things have defined me, in my own mind. Not the symbols – the papers and photos – but the things they represent. My career, studies and volunteer work. Perhaps they feel as much a part of me as the gifts and mementos from my family. As the files were poured into the recycle bin I felt like I was being emptied – like that part of my life’s work was gone also. But then came the freedom. No more chaos and things to move and store. No more mounting evidence of the years that have gone by.

I realized then that my life experiences were not in the dumpster – they’re in me. I get to keep them and take them wherever I go, for a while at least – eventually the memories may slip away as well. I think aging must be God’s way of slowing us down so we appreciate and take into ourselves all that we have seen and done. Just as God rested on the

seventh day and looked at creation, and saw that it was good, so we are to do with our lives. Of course not all of our memories are good. God has had struggles with creation as well. But both our successes and mistakes are part of who we are. We need to see ourselves with humor and compassion. Surely the duck-billed platypus is a sign that God has a sense of humor! And we are not done living until we leave this place.

This Sunday is All Saints Sunday, when we will remember those who have gone before us and shaped our lives. We will look to our past, and the foundation upon which we stand. Then next month will be Advent, when we are reminded to be ready for the next thing. We empty ourselves – within and without – to make room for something new. Just as a mother might encourage a kindergartener to give up his baby blanket in exchange for a toy that suits his age, God encourages us to give up the things that we cling to in exchange for the hope that is to come – the next thing. Advent is the season of hope and anticipation. This Advent we will focus on new beginnings – on preparing ourselves so that God can enter our lives anew. To let go is to have freedom and possibility in your life. And isn’t that exciting?



### **Inspiration and Perspiration**

We just finished hosting a massive weekend of fun for our community and I am still processing it all. Our first ever Haunted House on Saturday was successful beyond our imagining, with 85 people visiting and giving us glowing reviews (“better than Valley Scare,” “thank you for doing this,” “this is the coolest thing I have done in my whole life!” “I’m calling my friends to come,” and “please do it again next year.”) Then on Sunday morning we hosted Fall Fest with the PLHS Interact Club doing a Trunk or Treat in the parking lot. Hospitality for both events was provided by the BOM team with pizza and quick breads, a LOT of popcorn popped by Ardys Sabin, and our Sunday morning fellowship hour hosts, the Trebesch’s. On Sunday we had crafts and games, and the wind made things a little more difficult, but again, the dozens of people who visited seemed really appreciative of the ways our people and our building were a place of welcoming and good cheer.

These events are ministry. It isn’t praying (although believe me a LOT of prayer went into them), or preaching (although we were mindful of what messages we were sending,) but they are extending ourselves to other beloved children of God. So much of what we have done: building and using the brick oven, building and keeping up the playground, installing and maintaining the lift and ramps, recruiting and equipping volunteers for events that take planning and then promoting those events so people know about them, is difficult and there is an expense to it. People could say it is too much trouble and what do we at Holy Trinity get out of them?

This past weekend we got to lift up our guests’ spirits and enjoy their responses. The guests’ appreciation in turn lifted up the people in the Haunted House and volunteering at the Fall Fest, and the people hosting in the Fellowship area. The guests kept saying how impressed they were and we kept saying to ourselves, “so many happy people, can you believe it?” Our youth got opportunities to dream big, got pushed to manage those dreams, found out that people supported them and wanted them to succeed, and felt appreciated. All of the infrastructure that our church has put together with hope over the past several years: the brick oven, the playground, and the

lift and ramps (a heartwarming story, please ask me about it) was used. We laughed together, and gave each other grace over little problems and imperfections, and found out we can do big difficult things with style. We loved our neighbors and each other by going the extra mile, saying yes to something none of us were sure about, and showing up.

I was deeply involved in most of the non-food aspects of this weekend, but I want to be clear, this was not my idea. Pastor Leigh cooked up this plan with a few youth and the flicker of interest grew into a full flame of inspiration. Nothing would have happened without the support of the families of youth, and the church staff, or the resources and expertise generously given by others. It wouldn’t have been the success it was without the people who have been involved with the bread oven pizza and popcorn from the cart, and the lift and the ramps and the playground. We all shared love by saying yes to going the extra mile, showing up, and doing the work, and with God’s help we can all continue to be a loving presence for our community and for each other.



**Lynnette Dobberpuhl**  
Children, Youth & Family Coordinator  
Kidsandfamilies  
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651-492-8188

November Mission of the Month



Save the Children®

U.S. Border Children's Relief Fund

Save the Children is supporting programmatic and advocacy work at the U.S.-Mexico border to ensure that children are being protected.

Children fleeing violence, poverty and the devastating effects of climate change deserve protection. Many have undertaken a treacherous journey to the U.S. southern border to seek refuge in our nation.

For more than 100 years, Save the Children has protected the world's children from harm and ensured their rights are upheld. Today, they are working along the U.S. southern border through a network of shelter partners and social service agencies that welcome and support asylum seekers.

There is no single solution — alleviating the crisis at the U.S. Southern border will take a combination of advocacy, policy changes and humanitarian aid Together, we must do everything in our power to help children and families seeking safety in the U.S.

Your donation today will help them provide care and basic hygiene items to families and children, many of whom are exhausted and overwhelmed after a harrowing journey. Your gift will also help provide safe spaces where families and children can play, rest and receive emotional support.

- \$50 can provide warm blankets to 10 children living in a shelter
- \$100 can treat 15 children who have become malnourished after a long journey
- \$150 can provide towels, cloths, soap, shampoo and more to 10 families

Your support can help change lives. Please give today!



Thank you for donating \$1,134.63 to Water to Life during the month of September.

100% of your donations will go toward the purchase of much needed water filters for those without access to clean water.

As of 9/30/24, 826 pounds of produce have been donated to the CAP agency food shelf.



Thank you to our gardeners (and those donating from their personal gardens) for your dedication to this important ministry.



Building an INCLUSIVE Church in Minnesota

Minnesota Reconciling Congregations

Minnesota Reconciling Congregations are hosting a Fall Zoom Learning Event on Thursday, November 7th starting at 7pm featuring Dr. Ellie Krug's presentation on "Welcoming LGBTQ+ Congregants." You are invited to attend a "Watch Party" at Carol Ottoson's house, 16399 Itasca Ave. S.E., Prior Lake. We will meet in the lower level, but you can come either upstairs or downstairs. Please join us early -- starting at 6:15pm. You can build your own small pizza (6 or 10 inch), which will be made on Carol's "phenomenottoson" crusts (there is a reputation). She will also prepare a few gluten-free crusts. Please sign up by contacting the church office or by adding your name to the paper sign up at church.



## Core Team Corner and Upcoming Events...

The Core Team met Monday, October 14. Highlights of the discussion included:

- **Finance:** The new Finance team met with Tanya Alemu as the new Finance chair, Kelly Loose, treasurer; Pastor Leigh, and Paula Green, Core Chair. The team agreed that the way the current accounts are set up creates a confusing picture, primarily because of mission giving, but also due to some accounts that were closed and the balance moved into the church's general fund, which appears as income though it is not. The team will be opening a new Old National Bank account to separate mission giving and payouts from the general fund for clarity. Once the mission money is separated, and the apportionments are paid off (important for opportunities for grants and other annual conference support), the general fund will be at \$60K by the end of this year, the minimum for reserves on hand set in 2020. By policy, we cannot spend more than we take in at this point.
- **New Partners:** Representatives from the Shakopee Community Assistance and Toy Closet visited Thursday, October 17 to see if the lower level of the Parsonage would be appropriate to house their programs. Following the tour, SCA and Toy Corner agreed to rent the space for \$1200 per month, plus payment for garbage and WiFi, beginning January 1st. HTUMC will replace the ceiling in the main room and upgrade internet access in the building, for a cost of about \$1500. They suggested we contact Loaves and Fishes to see if they might be interested in a similar arrangement in the church building.

The next Core Team meeting will be Monday, November 18. Full minutes will be added to <https://www.htumc.org/core-team/>



### Annual Charge Conference

Sunday, November 10

After Worship at 10:30am

All are welcome to attend to hear year-end conference reports and discuss official church business. However, at a charge conference, only the CORE Team is able to vote.

A note to our faithful Communion Servers...

Thank you for serving with such care and joy at the Lord's altar. You are a very important part of our Communion Service and a blessing to all of us!



**DAYLIGHT  
SAVING TIME ENDS  
FALL BACK**  
SET YOUR CLOCKS BACK ONE HOUR  
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2024



Holy Trinity will once again be adopting several families in our area for CAP Agency's Hope for the Holidays. Please watch your email for the signup which will be coming out **mid-November**.

**HOPE**  
for the  
HOLIDAYS

### One Table Event—Sunday, December 15

Our Inclusion focus for Fall is One Table/Cultural Awareness. Our tradition of communion in church actually comes from the One Table tradition during Jesus' time. The bread and the wine that Jesus shared with his disciples during what we now call the Last Supper were actually an integral part of the Passover tradition.

**We would like to invite all of you to attend and hopefully participate in our One Table Event right after worship on Sunday, December 15th.** We invite you to bring a dish from your culture (or anyone else's culture for that matter) and spend time with others sharing your own immigrant experience. Please be ready to share recipes and stories. We are all parts of many communities, including the community of our own heritage. We hope you can join us!



Holy Trinity will be celebrating "All Saints Sunday" on **November 3** during worship. We will be honoring all loved ones who passed away in the last year. You are welcome to bring a memento (picture, item, candle) to place on the altar on November 3 to honor any other loved ones who passed away more than a year ago.



**All Women Invited!**

Holy Trinity UMC and Lydia Zion UMC  
United Women in Faith  
**FALL GET-TOGETHER**



**Saturday, November 9th at 11:00am**  
Holy Trinity United Methodist Church  
16150 Arcadia Ave – Prior Lake MN 55372

**COME TO: \*Enjoy a tasty lunch (free)!**

**\*Hear from Emma Norton's Advancement Director  
Shawna Nelsen-Wills about all the good things  
happening at Emma Norton.**

**\*See your friends and make new ones!**

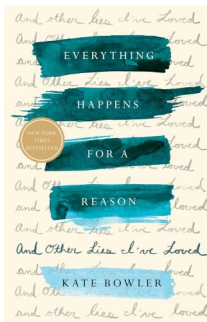
RSVP to Sharon Dougherty at  
[sdsrdougherty@gmail.com](mailto:sdsrdougherty@gmail.com) or 612-280-2103

**\*Please note:** There will **NOT** be a regular UWF  
gathering on November 12

**We are collecting these essential items for when a  
housing unit is set up for a new resident at Emma  
Norton.** Please join us in collecting these **NEW**  
items and place in the laundry basket display in the  
Narthex at Holy Trinity UMC.

- Queen size sheets & comforters (new)
- Brooms/dust pans
- Vacuums/dust busters
- Bath towels
- Shelf liners
- Non-stick frying pans
- Drawer organizers
- Food storage containers
- Silverware organizers
- Throw blankets/quilts

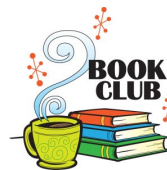
**Lakefront Bible Study**  
**November 5 & 19**  
**from 1:00-2:30pm**  
**Lakefront Plaza Commons Room**



The group is currently studying *Everything Happens for a Reason* by Kate Bowler.

This book can be purchased from the church for \$10 or is also available on Amazon.

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

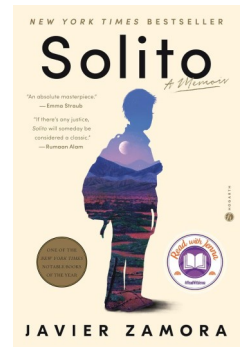


**Trinity Readers**  
**Tuesday, November 26**  
**2:00pm Church Library**

If you enjoy reading and discussing books, join us!

**The book for November: *Solito: A Memoir*  
by Javier Zamora**

*A young poet tells the inspiring story of his migration from El Salvador to the United States at the age of nine in this "gripping memoir" of bravery, hope, and finding family.*



United Women in Faith

**United Women in Faith CHRISTMAS LUNCH**  
**Tuesday, December 10 at 11:30am**



**-Dangerfield's-**  
**1583 1<sup>st</sup> Ave E, Shakopee**



Lunch at your own expense.

**Reservations required – by December 3**

Please contact Sharon Dougherty by email at [sdsrdougherty@gmail.com](mailto:sdsrdougherty@gmail.com) or call/text at 612-280-2103.



We **will not** be having our monthly gathering on Tuesday, November 12 given we're hosting the **Fall Gathering with Lydia Zion UWFaith on Saturday, November 9** in Fellowship Hall. Join us – there's still room but please contact Sharon Dougherty immediately so we have enough food!

We're gathering items to donate to Emma Norton for the event. Shawna Wills-Nelsen from Emma Norton will be our speaker to give a deep dive about Emma Norton and all about the new facility (Restoring Waters) and what an impact it's having, etc. Also of interest is the new Living Room Model (see display in Narthex for info).

Sara Modders encourages us (and every one) to read the **new books** recently added to the church library! Some of these books are included in the UWFaith Reading Program.

The River Valley District Annual Gathering was held on September 14 in Owatonna, and Sara and Sharon attended from our unit. This year's theme was *"Anticipating Our Future—Honoring Our Past"*. On October 5, the Minnesota Annual Conference held their Annual Gathering in Roseville, and Sharon and Nancy Iverson attended. The program's theme was *"Caring for God's Creation: Climate Justice & Environmental Racism"*. Sharon has served as a district officer (Communications Coordinator) for five years and has completed her term. Nancy has served as district officer (Education & Interpretation) for two years and has completed her term. We will move to a new district called **Prairie Winds** and have an opportunity to meet many new Sisters-in-Christ.

Our unit's **pledges** to both missions and Emma Norton for 2024 were paid to the district in September. Our 2025 unit pledges have been determined.

*Questions: contact Sharon Dougherty at 612-280-2103, [sdsrdougherty@gmail.com](mailto:sdsrdougherty@gmail.com).*

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### **Inclusion Starts with I** By Carol Ottoson

One of my favorite hymns of all time is "A Place at the Table" by Shirley Erena Murray. Every verse is inclusive – with the chorus summing it up with "And God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy; yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice – justice and joy." This is why the I Team is celebrating "A Place at the Table" during the final quarter of 2024. Our goal is education and hospitality. We need to remind ourselves that immigrants, refugees, migrants, and undocumented immigrants are real human beings whose life experiences are extremely difficult, yet they are so often treated as our enemies, rather than beloved children of God. When we dehumanize and demonize other people, we take away their very existence. Genesis 1:27 is very clear that all people are created in the image of God (Imago Dei). We are ALL God's children. Jesus reminds us to "love our neighbors as ourselves." Our whole "Do Unto Others" Campaign challenges us all to reject the rhetoric of hate and embrace the beauty of love.

The I Team started our education process with Cindy Bahmer's comments and education piece on Immigrants. Lori Boynton continued it with information on Refugees. In November, Kay Petterson will discuss Migrants, and Rene Meyer will wrap up our series with information on Undocumented Immigrants. It is important for us to seek the truth about other people's lives, experiences, and humanity. Jesus reminded us in his Sermon on the Mount to "Judge not, lest ye be judged."

Remember, **Inclusion Starts with I**.

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# November 2024

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
					1	2
<p style="color: orange; font-weight: bold;">3</p> 9:30am Worship/ Live-Stream 10:30am I-Team Meeting 	<p style="color: orange; font-weight: bold;">4</p> 7pm Al-Anon at the parsonage	<p style="color: orange; font-weight: bold;">5</p> 1-2:30pm Lakefront Bible Study 7pm CoDA at the parsonage	<p style="color: orange; font-weight: bold;">6</p> 4pm Bells Rehearsal 7pm Choir Rehearsal	<p style="color: orange; font-weight: bold;">7</p> 6:15pm Ellie Krug Watch Party 6pm Veterans AA at the parsonage	<p style="color: orange; font-weight: bold;">8</p>	<p style="color: orange; font-weight: bold;">9</p> United Women in Faith 11:00am Fall Gathering
<p style="color: orange; font-weight: bold;">10</p> 9:30am Worship/ Live-Stream 10:30am Charge Conference 	<p style="color: orange; font-weight: bold;">11</p> 7pm Al-Anon at the parsonage	<p style="color: orange; font-weight: bold;">12</p> 7pm CoDA at the parsonage	<p style="color: orange; font-weight: bold;">13</p> 4pm Bells Rehearsal 7pm Choir Rehearsal	<p style="color: orange; font-weight: bold;">14</p> 6pm Veterans AA at the parsonage	<p style="color: orange; font-weight: bold;">15</p>	<p style="color: orange; font-weight: bold;">16</p>
<p style="color: orange; font-weight: bold;">17</p> 9:30am Worship/ Live-Stream	<p style="color: orange; font-weight: bold;">18</p> 6:30pm Core Team Meeting 7pm Al-Anon at the parsonage	<p style="color: orange; font-weight: bold;">19</p> 1-3:15pm Quilters 1-2:30pm Lakefront Bible Study 7pm CoDA at the parsonage	<p style="color: orange; font-weight: bold;">20</p> 4pm Bells Rehearsal 7pm Choir Rehearsal	<p style="color: orange; font-weight: bold;">21</p> 6pm Veterans AA at the parsonage	<p style="color: orange; font-weight: bold;">22</p>	<p style="color: orange; font-weight: bold;">23</p>
<p style="color: orange; font-weight: bold;">24</p> 9:30am Worship/ Live-Stream	<p style="color: orange; font-weight: bold;">25</p> 7pm Al-Anon at the parsonage	<p style="color: orange; font-weight: bold;">26</p> 2:00pm Trinity Readers 7pm CoDA at the parsonage	<p style="color: orange; font-weight: bold;">27</p> 4pm Bells Rehearsal	<p style="color: orange; font-weight: bold;">28</p> 6pm Veterans AA at the parsonage	<p style="color: orange; font-weight: bold;">29</p>	<p style="color: orange; font-weight: bold;">30</p>





## *Holy Trinity United Methodist Church*



16150 Arcadia Avenue SE  
Prior Lake, Minnesota, 55372

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

**Pastor:** Rev. Leigh Brown  
[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)

# November

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