



# 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, 2025



### Connection

Connection. It is a favorite word of mine and one that you will frequently hear coming from my mouth. I believe that understanding our connection to each other and to all creation is vital to our sense of well-being and peace. Our culture is suffering from an increasing sense of disconnection and isolation, but our God calls us into community. After all, our God is by nature relational – Creator, Redeemer and Spirit – a Holy Trinity. To be connectional is a fundamental part of what it means to be church for United Methodists – from both an organizational and relational standpoint. Holy Trinity is part of a worldwide denomination that allows us to broaden our service. We are a church community in relationship with God – at Christmastime we celebrated God’s incarnation in our world, breaking the barrier between creator and creation, heaven and earth, connecting the two as one kingdom. And we are a church community in relationship with each other – connected as Christ’s Body in faith, hope, joy, and love through Holy Trinity United Methodist Church. We worship, learn, eat, serve, laugh and cry together. We seek always to further strengthen our connection; to find ways to deepen our relationships with each other, with God, and with God’s kingdom.

Between the busy seasons of Advent and Lent is a good time to honor and celebrate our connection and our identity as a congregation. Our worship series for February through March 2<sup>nd</sup> is called *Together with God*. Alone we can do little, but together with God we can do great things. What is God calling us to let go of? What is God calling us to embrace?

Each of you is an essential part of Holy Trinity – your thoughts and your voices are important. In February we will also begin a process to collectively discern who God is calling us to be and what God is calling us to do as a community in Christ.

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## Pastor Leigh continued...

This is an opportunity to pray together for our church and to speak as our hearts move us. We will start with a small representative group and then widen the circle – everyone will have a chance to participate. You are a vital part of our connection!

Connection is a noun, but connect is a verb. Connection requires action. The future of our church will rise from our passion and commitment to our ministry today. One action I ask you each to take individually is to pray for our church this month. Listen for God's call to our community as a whole and God's call to you as a part of our community.

Finally, in our discernment we seek always to hold on to our enduring values *and* to embrace new possibilities. There are things we must let go of to make room for new possibilities – to become fully who God wants us to be. And there are values we must hold on to that define our very identity – who we are in God. One of our stated values is inclusivity. We are a congregation that is welcoming to and affirming of all God's people. This value is grounded in the example of Jesus and his ministry. On Sunday, March 2, we will celebrate our second anniversary as a Reconciling congregation in worship and in fellowship time, hosted by our *I Team* (I for inclusion). Because, in addition to being welcoming and affirming, we are a congregation that embraces fun, food, and fellowship. Come to the party!

*Through the gathering  
of believers, God meets our  
deep need for community  
and through us He carries  
out His mission.  
We are better together.*

*@marianjordan*

## Tie-Fringe Blanket Event

Twenty-six people worked together for two hours on Sunday, January 19 to make 20 no sew blankets from fleece fabric, a new record for us and a physical representation of love and care for our neighbors at Passageways. Thank you, friends! (Unfortunately some had to leave before the group pic was taken.)



## **Understanding the Assignment**

The thing about change is that it is always happening, even when you don't realize it. What seems like a sudden shift in direction or growth is often a result of a long spell of less noticeable change that has been building slowly. In this country, the last six months have been full of change, but so has the past ten years, and the fifty or 100 years before that. When I was in school, we were taught to manage change by naming our career or life goal, listing our objectives that would lead us to that goal, and then setting down tasks with deadlines to help us accomplish the objectives. Work hard, follow the plan, achieve the goals. In a complicated world where opportunities fluidly come and go, I could see how helpful the process could be as we worked out what we wanted to be. And now I think in our country, our community and our church today we have some of our own questions about what we want to be.

I had trouble envisioning what I wanted my career path to be, but I was clear on how I wanted to be. Mostly, I wanted to be different than I was. I was awkward socially, quick to get angry, impulsive, sad, pessimistic, and anxious. I still have all those feelings at times, but I am a lot better now than I was. And I give 100% of the credit for that improvement to Jesus, by learning about the things that he taught, and trying to follow him. It took a lot longer than I wanted, mostly because I kept getting in my own way, wanting to stay mad about things that upset me instead of forgiving, or being bitter about not getting what I thought I wanted, or being too proud or anxious to do something I was pretty sure God wanted me to do. Every time I chose forgiving, putting someone else first, or being humble, things started getting better. I got better. Over time I became braver, kinder, more patient, and more hopeful. Without the teachings of Jesus, his unfailing and overflowing love, and his promises of peace and abundant life, I don't know where I would be now. It is why the children and youth ministry at Holy Trinity is so important to me. I want every kid, every person, to know how loved they are by God, and how Jesus can help us grow through that love. The work I have been a part of at Holy Trinity and all the beloved people I have known here are such blessings and have

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taught me so much about the nature of God and Jesus, and the possibilities of our life together in Christian community. It has been an incredible opportunity, and it makes me sad but also hopeful to share that in July of this year, after STORM camp, I will be leaving my role as the coordinator of children, youth and family ministries here. It is time for me to focus on other responsibilities and opportunities, and time for someone new to take on the work and, hopefully, take it much farther.

People here have always been very kind, telling me what I do is important, or that I do the work well, but almost everything I do requires just a couple of things; genuine care for other people, and a willingness to try things that seem hard, often without a plan, skills or knowledge to start out.

While the leadership at Holy Trinity is figuring out the best job description for when it is time for the role to be filled, I would ask everyone at Holy Trinity right now to stretch themselves by reaching out even more to each other and to new people with genuine care (if it seems scary just remember that we are here to help them know by our actions that they are beloved by God), and saying yes to things you think are important, even if they are hard and you don't immediately know how it will go (it is said, God doesn't call the equipped; He equips the called.) The goal is that by wholeheartedly loving God, each other and our neighbors, we will grow closer to being the Kingdom of God. We can achieve this goal by setting objectives like being together more in community or learning more about what Jesus taught through study and private devotions and implementing it into our personal lives. As you figure out your own objectives and tasks, trust that it can be fun, it can be live-giving, and it can help us become the people, the church, the community and even the world we want to be, that we were created by God to be.

I look forward to ministry together over the next six months and beyond, as I will continue as a member of the church, though a much less involved member than I am now. Time is short and change is happening! Let's do stuff and be in community and extend love now, before opportunities pass us by.

Lynnette Dobberpuhl  
**Children, Youth & Family Coordinator**

## February Mission of the Month



SHOWING UP FOR  
RACIAL JUSTICE  
**EDUCATION FUND**

Showing Up for Racial Justice Education Fund (SURJ-EF) is a national network of groups and individuals working for a world where racial and economic justice thrive and where all communities are free from violence and fear. Through community organizing, mobilizing, and education, SURJ-EF works to undermine white supremacy and move white people to act as part of a multi-racial majority for justice.

SURJ-EF moves white people to act as part of a multi-racial majority for justice with passion and accountability by: (1) base-building and deep organizing projects in strategic Appalachian and Southern states, (2) mobilizing their national base of over one million people to take action in local and national campaigns, and (3) their 150 volunteer-led SURJ chapters & affiliates in nearly all 50 states. Their strategy of moving white people into multiracial liberatory movements is possible due to deep partnerships with BIPOC-led movements at the local, state, and national levels.

Your support will ensure that SURJ Education Fund can support their nearly 200 grassroots chapters and affiliates across the country.

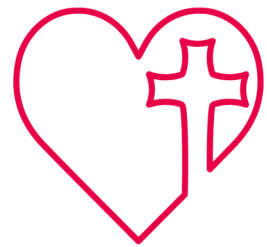


Thank you for donating **\$1,027 to Save the Children: US Border Children's Relief Fund** during the month of November and **\$983 to Alight** during the month of December.



Thank you also for giving \$2246 to our Christmas Offering as well as purchasing many gifts for our Hope for the Holidays Project. Your generosity is greatly appreciated here at Holy Trinity and in our greater community.

## The I Team Love Your Neighbor Challenge!



In the next two months go out of your way to **Love Your Neighbor** tangibly through:

### SERVICE, ADVOCACY, & LEARNING

Get to know your neighbor by:

- Volunteering
- Attending learning sessions
- Speaking up for others
- Spreading random acts of kindness

Fill out an anonymous **Love Your Neighbor** slip with what you did and how you felt about it and put it in the basket at church. We will collect the slips until the end of March and share some at our first church service in April. Inspire others! Spread **love** and kindness!



## Core Team Corner and Announcements...

The Core Team met on Monday, January 6. Highlights of the discussion included:

- Finance: We ended 2024 with a negative balance, but better than forecasted. Pledges are down, and the deficit is projected to be substantial this year, so depending on how giving trends in the first quarter, we must be prepared to make adjustments to current spending.
- Kids & Family Ministry: New young families have been attending, which has been fun! We are resuming welcome gifts for visitors and ensuring we have volunteers available for Kids' Church for infants through 5th grade. Lynnette announced she would be leaving her position in July, announcing well in advance to give leaders time to prepare for the staffing change.

The next Core Team meeting will be Monday, February 17 at 6:30pm. Full minutes can be found at: <https://www.htumc.org/core-team/>.

Holy Trinity's **United Women in Faith** gathered for a Christmas lunch at Dangerfield's in Shakopee. They celebrated a successful year of mission giving and fellowship. The group donated 138 lbs. of non-perishable food items to help the "Fill a Grocery Bag for a Hungry Family" initiative at the CAP Agency Food Shelf in Shakopee.



### Hey, Families and Youth! Here is a new opportunity!

We are excited about our Lent soup supper series on Wednesday nights from Ash Wednesday (March 5) through April 9, but what about our kids? Bring the family for the soup suppers on Wednesdays, and let us know if you would like childcare for your little ones while you attend worship (Ash Wednesday) and/or the study (on the following Wednesdays.) Youth, here is a great opportunity to have fun while serving others by playing with the younger kids! We just need to know how many kids to plan for and the ages. This is free and open to anyone, so, parents, feel free to invite friends if you like! Contact Lynnette or sign up on the Simon Peter Sign Up Genius if you are interested in getting childcare or helping to provide care. <https://bit.ly/SimonPeterLentStudy>

#### Mark Your Calendars!

If you are interested in Vacation Bible School (for kids 3 years - completion of 5th grade) or helping with VBS (completed 6th grade and up) please mark your calendar for **Mon-Thurs, 5-7:30pm, June 23-26th** and contact Lynnette to get added to the list!



If you are, or have a youth who will have completed 7th-12th grades this year, let Lynnette know if you might be interested in STORM camp **4pm July 14-10:30am July 19**. Mark your calendars now for one of the most amazing and unique experiences you will ever have!



## Church Announcements...



United  
Women  
in Faith

### United Women in Faith Gathering for FEBRUARY

Tuesday, February 11<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm

-Meet in Fellowship Hall at the church-

Our missions support women, children and youth.

We gather for fellowship, devotions, prayer  
and a focus theme.

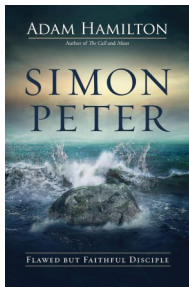
Please contact Sandy Feldhake for questions at  
sfeldha1@msn.com or 952-484-7868.

Join us on Ash Wednesday,  
March 5 for a soup supper  
at 5:15pm followed by  
worship at 6:00pm.



### Lenten Soup Suppers and Group Study

Please join us this Lent for a simple soup supper  
followed by a Lenten group study on *Simon Peter:  
Flawed but Faithful Disciple* by Rev. Adam Hamilton.



**Wednesdays** March 12-April 23  
(excluding April 16th)

Soup Supper: 5:15-5:45PM

Book Study: 5:45-6:45PM

**Thursdays** March 13-April 24  
(excluding April 17th)

Book Study: 12:00-1:00PM

The book is an in-depth dive into the life, faith, and  
character of Simon Peter, and we will experience  
the events of Holy Week through Peter's eyes. The  
study will complement our Lent worship series.

If you would like the church to order you a book,  
**please sign up by Sunday, February 16.** Cost is  
\$12.50. You are also welcome to purchase the book  
on your own. You can sign up at church or online  
here: <https://bit.ly/SimonPeterLentStudy>



**FREE VALENTINES!**



The United Women in Faith invites you to take a  
free handmade valentine! Grab one or two from  
the red gift bag in the Narthex or the red gift bag in  
Fellowship Hall. Limited quantities. Our unit made  
these and would love to share –  
please spread love every day!

### Lakefront Bible Study

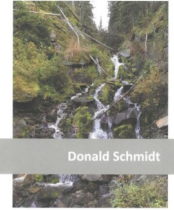
February 4 & 18

from 1:00-2:30pm

Lakefront Plaza Commons Room

Revelation

for Progressive Christians



### Phantasmagoria! A Study of the Book of Revelation

In this seven session study we will dispel myths  
regarding the Book of Revelation, consider the text  
using historical/critical and literary methods, and  
discuss the relevance of the story to our lives  
today. In addition to other materials, we will be  
following the book *Revelation for Progressive  
Christians* by Rev Dr. Donald Schmidt.

This is a non-denominational group.

All are welcome! Call Barb Bollinger  
with questions at 612-670-1847.



**Trinity Readers**  
Tuesday, February 25  
2:00pm Church Library

If you enjoy reading and discussing books, join us!

**The book for February: *The Five Wishes of  
Mr. Murray McBride* by Joe Siple**

*A novel about Murray McBride, a  
lonely 100-year-old man who's  
outlived just about everyone he's  
ever loved. But when he meets a  
boy awaiting a heart transplant,  
Murray may learn something about  
finding meaning in life again . . .*



### 2024 Year-End Giving Statements



Annual  
Giving  
Statements

2024 Giving Statements  
were sent on 1/15/25  
(either through email or  
regular mail.)

Please contact the  
church office if you  
have any questions.

## One Table Event

As a Reconciling Congregation, the members of the I Team (Inclusion Team) have made it our mission to educate our congregation about other communities, especially communities who have been marginalized. We've shared information about the LGBTQ+ community, about people who are disabled, about neurodiverse people, as well as the immigrant communities. Last year we celebrated our own cultural backgrounds with our first One Table event. We brought food and shared recipes from our own ethnic or family background.

This year we continued the tradition. Our emphasis for the final quarter of 2024 was called *A Place at the Table*. I Team members shared information that they researched on Immigrants, Refugees, Migrants, and Undocumented Immigrants. The results of our research were presented in church. We then celebrated our own "Immigrant Stories" at our second Annual One Table Event on December 15. This year was an even bigger event with many main dishes, pastries, and desserts from around the world. We not only shared recipes, but we also shared our family's immigration stories. It was truly a remarkable event with many stories, recipes, and open hearts to all. We will continue to celebrate our One Table Event annually on the 3rd Sunday of December.



**Inclusion Starts with I** By Carol Ottoson

The I Team encourages you to get involved in the *Love Your Neighbor Campaign* by going out of your way to engage in Service, Advocacy, and Education. My first act of this campaign was to attend the Rotary Sponsored MLK Day Celebration at Prior Lake High School on January 20<sup>th</sup>. Although this is the fourth annual celebration, this is the first time that I attended it. It will not be the last. It was beautifully done. There was choral work by both high school and elementary (Glendale) students, there was a poetry reading by the Prior Lake High School Student Advisory Group, as well as by the two winners of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Essay/Poetry contest, and there was a multi-cultural food sampling at the end of the formal program. Rene Meyer and I also enjoyed seeing Randi Erlandson in her role as a high school choir director and as an accompanist for the Glendale Honor Choir.

My biggest “education” piece came from the remarkable keynote speech by Alex Krafft, who represents an organization called Narrative 4 (<https://narrative4.com/>). Her presentation was entitled “Building Community Through the Power of Storytelling.” She shared one of their methods, which often brings about amazing results. Two people share a story with each other, and then they switch places and tell the other person’s story from the first-person point of view. Alex and Sam Ouk (from the school district) started the presentation by telling the other person’s story. Sam introduced himself as Alex, and Alex introduced herself as Sam. It is in the telling of another person’s story that we can gain even more empathy for their lives and their experiences. Alex mentioned that we can also gain “me”pathy, realizing that perhaps we need empathy for ourselves too.

She shared a powerful video of a group of people in New York City, many who have come from trauma, who spent quite a bit of time as a group and worked on this concept of learning other people’s stories and sharing them in the first-person. One result of this exchange was that a young man from Yemen felt compelled to work with his Robotics Club to create clothing that will help the circulation of people in wheelchairs. Rene and I chatted with Alex after the presentation and may reach out to her later. I encourage you to look at the amazing work that Narrative4 does across the world. Sharing stories and stepping into other people’s shoes can be a very powerful tool to help each of us learn to love ALL of our neighbors even more. **Remember Inclusion starts with I.**













# February 2025

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
						1
<b>2</b> 9:30am Worship/ Live-Stream 11:00am CPR/AED Training 	<b>3</b>  7pm Al-Anon at the parsonage	<b>4</b>  1-2:30pm Lakefront Bible Study 7pm CoDA at the parsonage	<b>5</b>  4pm Bells Rehearsal 7pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>6</b>  6pm Veterans AA at the parsonage	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> 9:30am Worship/ Live-Stream 10:30am I-Team Meeting	<b>10</b>  7pm Al-Anon at the parsonage	<b>11</b>  United Women in Faith 2:00pm UWfaith Fellowship Hall 7pm CoDA at the parsonage	<b>12</b>  4pm Bells Rehearsal 7pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>13</b>  6pm Veterans AA at the parsonage	<b>14</b> 	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> 9:30am Worship/ Live-Stream	<b>17</b> 6:30pm Core Team Meeting 7pm Al-Anon at the parsonage	<b>18</b> 1-3:15pm Quilters  1-2:30pm Lakefront Bible Study 7pm CoDA at the parsonage	<b>19</b>  4pm Bells Rehearsal 7pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>20</b>  6pm Veterans AA at the parsonage	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> 9:30am Worship/ Live-Stream	<b>24</b>  7pm Al-Anon at the parsonage	<b>25</b>  2:00pm Trinity Readers 7pm CoDA at the parsonage	<b>26</b>  4pm Bells Rehearsal 7pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>27</b>  6pm Veterans AA at the parsonage	<b>28</b>	

*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)



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