



# 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!”*

### March, 2025



### ***Our Lenten Journey***

Living in the moment has always been a challenge for me. I don't dwell much in the past, but I spend plenty of time in the future! I tend to look ahead, dream big and occasionally take on more than I should. Time seems to move so quickly – it's hard to believe as I write this that Ash Wednesday is next week and the season of Lent is upon us. And yet, it is because we in our society move so quickly that we need to intentionally take time to slow down, reflect, and find peace in our souls.

Lent is just such a time – a time in our church year when we change direction. The anticipation and waiting of Advent, the celebration of Jesus' birth at Christmas time, and the many small revelations of God's majesty throughout the season of Epiphany lead us to this time when we follow Jesus on that rocky and treacherous road through the mountains to Jerusalem, and finally to a cross on the hill of Golgotha.

The church has celebrated the season of Lent since the fourth century. It is a forty-day period of prayer, fasting and reflection that mirror the forty years that our ancestors wandered in the wilderness, and the forty days in which Jesus was tempted in the desert. During Lent we pray and embrace other faith practices, reflecting on the ministry of Jesus Christ and on our own discipleship. We “fast” from our own wants and over-indulgences, emptying ourselves so that we can be filled with what God wants for us. We remember the sacrifice that Jesus was willing to make so that we might know God's love and forgiveness and freedom.

The journey to Jerusalem and the crucifixion, death and resurrection of Christ are central to our Christian faith. While we study Jesus' teachings to learn how we ought to live, it is through the event at the cross – his willingness to suffer, his forgiveness for his enemies (and friends), his unending love for all of us, and his ultimate triumph over death –

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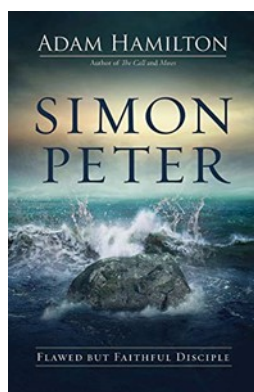
## Pastor Leigh continued...

it is through this event that we are invited into an eternal relationship with Jesus Christ. As we open ourselves fully to this relationship, we too find the courage and willingness to confront our fears. We too overcome betrayal and learn to forgive. We too learn to love and find the joy of serving God and our neighbor. We too experience the power of God's ultimate truth that surpasses anything this earthly life can dish out to us.

This Lenten season, we will explore the life and faith of Peter, Jesus' renowned disciple, as a tool for exploring our own faith journeys. In Peter, we see a person who is both steadfast and unsteady, a dear friend and a betrayer, a follower and a wanderer. In Peter we often see ourselves. Faith is a constant journey of steadfast pursuit, one that ebbs and flows. We will focus on the ways Peter keeps going: he drops his nets, he walks on water, he runs to the empty tomb, he swims to the shore to meet the risen Christ. He keeps searching and yearning and loving, even after missteps or mistakes. By following Peter's journey, we watch the story of Jesus unfold through the eyes of a very normal human trying to figure it all out – just like us.

In addition, on Wednesday evenings during Lent we will have a soup supper beginning at 5:15pm. On Ash Wednesday we will have a service at 6:00pm, and then on the following Wednesdays we will study together the book *Simon Peter: Flawed But Faithful Disciple* by Adam Hamilton, beginning at 6:00pm. The study will include a guided conversation enhanced by weekly videos filmed by the author in the Holy Land.

Join us in this introspective Lenten season. As we wander, may our hearts be attuned to God's grace.



## Inclusion Starts with I

We will be celebrating our second anniversary of becoming a Reconciling Congregation on March 2 of this year. Please join us for cupcakes and conversation after church on the 2nd as we proudly commit to being a safe space for all. Many positive events have happened both in the over-all United Methodist Church, as well as in our local church. On May 1st of 2024 the General Conference of the UMC removed the ban on LGBTQ restrictive language with an approval rate of 93%. As a Reconciling Congregation we commit to living into the goals of being welcoming to all. Since we've become a Reconciling Congregation, the I Team has taken on many initiatives for the good of us all. We are strong proponents of Radical Hospitality. We've added greeters at both doors every Sunday. During our first year, we presented monthly emphases giving educational information about people who are often marginalized, including people who live in poverty, immigrants, people with neurodiversity, memory loss, and disabilities. We also featured education on LGBTQ Pride, Native Americans, Black Lives Matter, domestic violence, mental health, and bullying. We've hosted discussions on neuro-diversity, had an amazing performance by the Flames, and invited Ellie Krug to talk about transgender issues and our own identities. We've introduced the One Table Event, which is now an annual event on the 3rd Sunday in December, where we share our own favorite dishes and recipes from our culture with others.

This year we've taken a different approach and are featuring quarterly emphases. We are currently in the last month of the *Love Your Neighbor* campaign. You are encouraged to get your slips turned in by the end of March. We will share some of the stories on the first Sunday of April. In April we will move into *Golden Rule*, which includes domestic violence, bullying, gender, and pride. My final comment is very personal and one that Pastor Leigh has emphasized too. It is essential that we are a safe space for all. I can guarantee you that nearly everyone in our congregation has a connection to someone you may have negative feelings for. Love is not political, nor is treating others with respect political. It is Christian behavior in action. Jesus taught us to love our neighbors as ourselves. Jesus truly loved all, as should we. **Remember, Inclusion starts with I.**

## **A Winning Team**

People come up to me often and remind me of when we had a roomful of kids for just about every grade level, and 2-4 leaders for every room. I, too, remember those classrooms, having taught in Sunday school and VBS most of the years I have been a member here. One of the reasons we started the position of Children, Youth and Family Ministry Coordinator (which I unofficially call Kids' Ministry Director) ten years ago was because of our diminishing numbers attending our weeknight and Sunday school activities. Yes, ten years ago, not just since Covid-19 or since we began discussing being a Reconciling Congregation.

Back in those high attendance days we had a lot of things working to our advantage; a tight-knit group of parents with kids of similar ages who attended school together, fewer scheduling conflicts on Wednesday and Sunday nights, and a cultural understanding that giving time at church was a valuable investment for your family and your community. Now our kids come to us from many different schools and often don't know each other, feeling like they are the "new kid". Everyone has multiple demands on their time, day and evening, seven days a week, and a lot of people question whether they or their kids get enough out of the traditional church experience to make the challenge of showing up a priority more than occasionally. It feels to many like we are losing something.

So, how do we win at Kids' Ministry? What does winning even look like?

The number of people attending can be a sign of a ministry's health, but it isn't the best sign. For our "littles" the winning outcome is simply helping them feel valued and loved at church and telling them that love is connected to Jesus. For our older kids, the important outcome is an extension of that: how their church life impacts the other areas of their life. A young person who learns through repeated experiences at church that they are seen, known and welcomed by God and by their community, that they belong, and that they have a God-given purpose, can come to believe they are known, belong, and have value everywhere despite what the world may tell them.

*Continued above...*

What about the Bible? What about the church teachings? These things are important, but I know when I look back on my own Sunday school experience, what I remember is flannel board storytelling, a nice lady sitting with us in a circle, paste pots for crafts and paper handouts to take home. I remember feeling like there were spaces in church (a pew and a classroom) where I belonged. Most of what I learned and retained about the Bible and about Jesus I learned from the Bible storybooks that I read and loved at home, not from Sunday school, and I think that is still true today.

How do we win? We all bring our love and attention to each other on Sunday mornings. We minister to each other in love and care, as well as receive the ministry of others. When we do this in worship, in fellowship spaces, and at events at Holy Trinity, our children and youth learn to love church, and will want to know more about Jesus who is the reason we are here. This is life-giving work, for them and hopefully for us too. If we can share a flicker of our own genuine love for Jesus and the work God is doing in our lives, we will have surpassed winning and reached excellence.

**Lynnette Dobberpuhl**

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





March Mission of the Month



CAP's 2025 Minnesota FoodShare Campaign

Founded in 1981, Minnesota FoodShare is a long standing initiative of GMCC's (Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches) food security and justice work. Their annual March Campaign engages thousands of people to raise food and funds for our food shelf partners across Minnesota. During the March Campaign and throughout the year, Minnesota FoodShare raises and distributes funding to food shelves and other partners addressing urgent issues of food security. Minnesota FoodShare Month is an important time of year for our local CAP Agency's food shelf. Across the nation millions of seniors, children, disabled adults, and financially challenged families are struggling in the face of steeper food costs due to increasing inflation pressures. Please join Holy Trinity in CAP's effort to end food insecurity in our community and "Put a CAP on Hunger!"



We will be collecting financial donations as well as CAP's most needed items listed below.

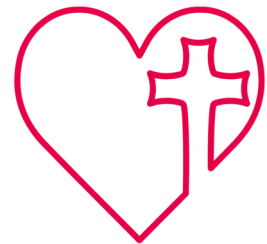
- Cereal
- Canned Fruits in Juice
- Peanut Butter
- Low-Sodium Soups
- Canned Chicken or Tuna (in Water)
- Macaroni and Cheese
- One-Skillet "Helper" Meals
- Tomato Sauce and Pasta
- Canned Beans
- Brown or White Rice
- Ramen Noodles



Thank you for donating \$1,022, 1,989 diapers and 2 packs of wipes to SCA during the month of January! They are so appreciative of your generosity!



The I Team Love Your Neighbor Challenge!



During the next month 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, February 17. The discussion mainly involved preparation for the Strategic Positioning meeting on February 24, and announcements as follows...



- Loaves & Fishes: Tanya and Leigh met with Mel (Director) who said they are in planning mode and will have more direction by mid-March.
- CYF: Recently got information on ACT United (Anti Child Trafficking) from FISH and Alzheimer's resources. Confirmation with Glendale still being figured out.
- I-Team: remaining vigilant to do what we can to keep Holy Trinity a safe space for all.
- Second anniversary of becoming a reconciling congregation will be celebrated on March 2nd during fellowship hour.

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

### 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!



### SPRING FORWARD

Set your clock an hour ahead

**Sunday, March 9, 2025**

Thank you to those who participated in our CPR/AED Training on February 2. We had 18 people attend and trained on these important life-saving measures.



### Minnesota Reconciling Congregations Gathering at Eden Prairie UMC on April 5

**"We're Not Done Yet!"**



All are invited to attend the MN Reconciling Congregations' Annual Spring Gathering on **Saturday, April 5th from 11:30-2:30 at Eden Prairie UMC**. This is an opportunity to gather with other Reconciling United Methodists to share lunch (bring a dish to share) and hear a program presented by Rev. Carol Zaagsma and Becky Boland. They will provide information about Regionalization and other Constitutional Amendments coming before the Annual Conference in June and about next steps to take toward inclusiveness. Questions? Contact Carol Ottoson at [ottoem50@aol.com](mailto:ottoem50@aol.com).

## Church Announcements...

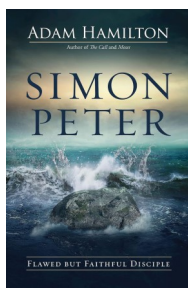


Join us on Ash Wednesday, March 5 for a soup supper at 5:15pm followed by worship at 6:00pm.

### Lenten Group Study

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

**Wednesdays** March 12-April 23  
(excluding April 16th)  
5:45-6:45PM  
**Thursdays** March 13-April 24  
(excluding April 17th)  
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. Books can be purchased on Amazon.

You can sign up at church or online here: <https://bit.ly/SimonPeterLentStudy>



Thank you to those who are making soup and hosting soup suppers this Lent! Soup Suppers begin at 5:15pm on the following Wednesdays...

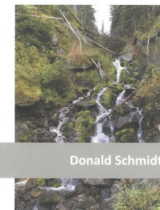
- March 5 - chicken vegetable and rice soup by Jim Helgerson and Lori Boynton - hosted by Trustees
- March 12 - soup by Maleigh Anderson & Family - hosted by Core Team
- March 19 - vegetable beef soup by Deanna Hawkins - hosted by Choir
- March 26 - soup by Dan and Ardys Sabin - hosted by I Team/BOM/Garden
- April 2 - soup by Don Oram - hosted by Bell Choir
- April 9 - soup by Grace Swanson - hosted by United Woman in Faith

\*\*\*There will be no soup supper or book study on April 16 due to Holy Week.

## Revelation

for Progressive Christians

**Lakefront Bible Study**  
**March 4 & 18**  
**from 1:00-2:30pm**  
**Lakefront Plaza Commons Room**



### 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.

### United Women in Faith Gathering for March



United  
Women  
in Faith

**Tuesday, March 11 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](mailto:sfeldha1@msn.com) or 952-484-7868.

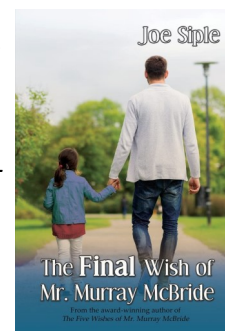


**Trinity Readers**  
**Tuesday, March 25**  
**2:00pm Church Library**

If you enjoy reading and discussing books, join us!

**The book for March: *The Final Wish of Mr. Murray McBride* by Joe Siple**

*Jason Cashman has reached the goal he spent the last twenty years seeking, but instead of feeling content, he feels empty. When he meets Alexandra Lopez, a ten-year-old girl facing deportation, he is inspired by his old friend, Murray McBride, to give her five wishes before she must leave.*





















# March 2025

Holy Trinity UMC

(952) 447-2990

office@htumc.org

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
						1
<p><b>2</b></p> <p>9:30am Worship/ Live-Stream</p>  <p><b>2 Year Anniversary Celebration after Worship</b></p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>7pm Al-Anon at the parsonage</p>	<p><b>4</b></p>  <p><b>1-2:30pm Lakefront Bible Study</b></p> <p>7pm CoDA at the parsonage</p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p><b>ASH WEDNESDAY</b></p>  <p>4pm Bells Rehearsal 5:15pm Soup Supper 6pm Worship</p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p>6pm Veterans AA at the parsonage</p>		<b>8</b>
<p><b>9</b></p> <p>9:30am Worship/ Live-Stream</p> <p><b>10:30am I-Team Meeting</b></p>  <p><b>SPRING FORWARD</b> Set your clock an hour ahead</p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>7pm Al-Anon at the parsonage</p>	<p><b>11</b></p>  <p>United Women in Faith</p> <p><b>2:00pm UWfaith Fellowship Hall</b></p> <p>7pm CoDA at the parsonage</p>	<p><b>12</b></p>  <p><i>Lenten Study</i></p> <p>4pm Bells Rehearsal 5:15pm Soup Supper 5:45pm Lenten Study 7pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>13</b></p>  <p><i>Lenten Study</i></p> <p>12pm Lenten Study 6pm Veterans AA at the parsonage</p>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<p><b>16</b></p> <p>9:30am Worship/ Live-Stream</p>	<p><b>17</b></p>  <p><b>6:30pm Core Team Meeting</b></p> <p>7pm Al-Anon at the parsonage</p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p>1-3:15pm Quilters</p>  <p><b>1-2:30pm Lakefront Bible Study</b></p> <p>7pm CoDA at the parsonage</p>	<p><b>19</b></p>  <p><i>Lenten Study</i></p> <p>4pm Bells Rehearsal 5:15pm Soup Supper 5:45pm Lenten Study 7pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>20</b></p>  <p><i>Lenten Study</i></p> <p>12pm Lenten Study 6pm Veterans AA at the parsonage</p>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<p><b>23</b></p> <p>9:30am Worship/ Live-Stream</p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p>7pm Al-Anon at the parsonage</p>	<p><b>25</b></p>  <p><b>2:00pm Trinity Readers</b></p> <p>7pm CoDA at the parsonage</p>	<p><b>26</b></p>  <p><i>Lenten Study</i></p> <p>4pm Bells Rehearsal 5:15pm Soup Supper 5:45pm Lenten Study 7pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>27</b></p>  <p><i>Lenten Study</i></p> <p>12pm Lenten Study 6pm Veterans AA at the parsonage</p>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<p><b>30</b></p> <p>9:30am Worship/ Live-Stream</p>	<p><b>31</b></p> <p>7pm Al-Anon at the parsonage</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)



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