



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, 2024

The "Appointment" Process



Recently, news has been shared that I would not be appointed to this church for another year, and that I had received a new appointment, to The Well in Rosemount, MN. Do you know how pastoral changes happen in our denomination? As I have been thinking specifically about this church, its history in this area has been limited. The two or three most recent changes have come about due to retirement. I think the last time a pastor was moved from here to another church was over 35 years ago!

United Methodist pastors who are ordained as elders agree to be itinerant, that is, moveable. We serve at the pleasure of the Bishop.

According to our *United Methodist Book of Discipline*, "Clergy shall be appointed by the bishop, who is empowered to make and fix all appointments in the episcopal area of which the annual conference is a part. Appointments are to be made with consideration of the gifts and evidence of God's grace of those appointed, to the needs, characteristics, and opportunities of congregations and institutions."

The Bishop does not work independently. Again turning to the *Book of Discipline*: "Consultation is the process whereby the bishop and/or district superintendent confer with the pastor and committee on pastor-parish relations, taking into consideration the criteria of ¶ 427, a performance evaluation, needs of the appointment under consideration, and mission of the Church. Consultation is not merely notification. Consultation is not committee selection or call of a pastor. The role of the committee on pastor-parish relations is advisory. Consultation is both a continuing process and a more intense involvement during the period of change in appointment."

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Pastor Chad continued...

Here's how that consultation process looked in our situation:

- I, like all ordained clergy, completed a profile form indicating my gifts and graces for ministry. These profile forms are on file with the Bishop and District Superintendents.
- The Well has been using an intentional interim pastor for the past year. In order to prepare for a permanent pastor, their SPRC met with the District Superintendent (DS) to prepare their church profile and compile a list of qualities desired in their next pastor.
- The DS brought this information back to the Bishop and Cabinet (other DS's). This group then identified a group of possible candidates based on clergy who gifts most closely matched with the identified needs of the church.
- This group of clergy was discussed and prayed over, and the Cabinet discerned the best fit. The language used at this point is "The Bishop intends to appoint Rev. Chad Gilbertson to The Well."
- My District Superintendent, Rev. Michelle Hargrave, contacted me and asked to meet to talk about a church to which the Bishop intended to appoint me. I agreed, and it was in that meeting where I learned which church.
- Rev. Hargrave and I had some conversation about The Well and why I was the best choice to serve that church. I was then asked if I would be willing to meet with the SPRC at The Well and I agreed.
- A meeting was held (introductory meeting) at The Well with their SPRC, the DS, me and my wife. This was an opportunity to get to know each other a bit better. After a time of conversation and questions, Becky Jo and I went to another room to pray and discern, and the SPRC stayed with the DS to do their own prayer and discernment. The question the DS asked all of us to consider was, "Can you affirm the Bishop's intention?" And in this case, everyone's response was "YES!"

Continued above...

- A letter is sent out and announcements are made in both the sending and receiving churches, stating the intention of the Bishop and the affirmation of all.

What's next for Holy Trinity is that the DS will work with the SPRT to gather information (this meeting was held on Feb. 20). At a future Cabinet meeting, candidates will be considered and prayed for, and the DS will meet with the pastor selected. If the pastor agrees, she or he will meet with the SPRT for an introductory meeting. And if everyone is able to affirm the Bishop's intention, an announcement will be made in worship, introducing you to your new pastor.

The timeline for this process is always uncertain. The Cabinet is working on a number of appointments at the same time, and often times setting an appointment creates the need for another appointment. But we can trust that they are working faithfully and diligently to make these appointments, including the one to Holy Trinity.

Please keep everyone involved – this church, the SPRT, the Bishop and Cabinet, me, The Well, and all other churches that are facing changes – in your prayers. We can know that the system works because God is in it.

If you have any questions about this process, or anything else, please don't hesitate to ask me. I will be happy to be in conversation with you.

Peace and Blessings,
Pastor Chad

Daylight Saving Time

Sunday, March 10



SPRING FORWARD
SET YOUR CLOCKS AHEAD AN HOUR

Trust God

You are fearfully and wonderfully made (Psalm 139:14). God knows you down to the number of hairs on your head (Luke 12:7) and loves you so much he sent a part of his own heart, Jesus, to live among us, teach us and die (Romans 5:8) that you might know eternal life (John 3:16). The creator of the cosmos runs to meet you when you turn to him (Luke 15:20). God has sent the Holy Spirit to be with you forever (John 14:16) who will help you know truth (John 15:26) have hope (Romans 15:13), freedom (2 Corinthians 3:17), love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23).

The world will try to own you, to tempt you into achieving your own glory only to work it against you, to keep you running until you are exhausted and numb, but Jesus says come to him and he will give you rest (Matthew 11:28) AND abundant life (John 10:10). God wants you, who were created in God's own image (Genesis 1:27) before the hurt, lies, and fear took hold, to be made new again (Ephesians 4:24).

When was the last time you stopped to consider that God has a firm foundation (Matthew 7:24) to place beneath your feet, and a shield of faith to protect you from the flaming arrows of evil (Ephesians 6:16?). When did you last set down all the regrets, anxieties, and fears ((1 Peter 5:7) you carry, maybe without even noticing, to open your arms wide and say yes to God (Romans 12:1)? What are you waiting for? What do you have to lose, that isn't already a burden holding you back? You can pray with words or with silence, you can use your eyes to read scripture or take in the beauty of creation; just stop whatever else you are doing and open your heart, soul, mind and the whole of your self to God. Trust that God is with you and give thanks.



"FINDING YOURSELF"
IS NOT REALLY HOW IT WORKS.
YOU AREN'T A TEN-DOLLAR BILL
IN LAST WINTER'S COAT POCKET.
YOU ARE ALSO NOT LOST.
YOUR TRUE SELF IS RIGHT THERE, BURIED
UNDER CULTURAL CONDITIONING, OTHER
PEOPLE'S OPINIONS, AND INACCURATE
CONCLUSIONS YOU DREW AS A KID THAT
BECAME YOUR BELIEFS ABOUT WHO YOU ARE.
"FINDING YOURSELF" IS ACTUALLY
RETURNING TO YOURSELF.
AN UNLEARNING, AN EXCAVATION,
A REMEMBERING WHO YOU WERE
BEFORE THE WORLD GOT ITS HANDS ON YOU.
EMILY McDOWELL

Save the Date: STORM Camp 2024 will be here 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. My 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/>

Serving Jesus by Serving Others
SJXSO at
STORM
Camp
July 14-18, 2024
Service To Others in Relational Ministry

March Mission of the Month



CAP's 2024 Minnesota Food Share Campaign

Minnesota Food Share Month is an important time of year for CAP'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. And while our Minnesota winter weather has been surprisingly milder than usual, many of our food-insecure neighbors are experiencing one of the hungriest seasons on record. You can be a SPECIAL part of the EXCITING effort to "Put a CAP on Hunger" in 2024.

We will be collecting financial donations as well as boxes of whole grain cereal.



We are joining CAP's effort to end food insecurity in our community and "Put a CAP on Hunger!"



THANK YOU

Thank you for donating \$959 to FISH (Families & Individuals Sharing Hope) during the month of January.

Your generous donations will help FISH with their mission to meet human needs in Scott County so that individuals will be able to live healthy, transformed lives.

Dear Friends at Holy Trinity United Methodist Church-

Thank you for your faithful support of Feed My Starving Children! Your generosity in November 2023 means 12 individuals will have a daily meal for 2024. Your donation is critical in feeding spirits and empowering communities around the world.

As FMSC recently wrapped up 2023 MannaPack shipments, I wanted to share a few exciting updates with you:

436,759,464 meals were shipped in 2023
75 Food Partners and 65 countries were served
5 top countries receiving FMSC meals in 2023:

1. Haiti – 65,865,168 meals
2. Philippines – 36,397,836 meals
3. Honduras – 36,040,908 meals
4. Guatemala – 34,045,812 meals
5. Nicaragua – 31,670,064 meals

Until all are fed-
Tracie Peterson
Development Representative
Feed My Starving Children



Core Team and Finance Updates...

The Core Team met Monday, February 27 at 6:30 pm. Highlights of the discussion included:

- The vote on the Northland offer (watch for a letter from Pastor Chad and members of the team coming soon.)
- Pastoral change (see Pastor Chad's article for more)
- United Women in Faith are meeting Tuesday, March 12 from 2-3:30 in part to plan a June event allowing people to rent tables to display and sell goods (like a flea market.) If you would like to help plan or reserve a table you can attend the meeting or contact Connie Scott or Sharon Dougherty.
- The I-Team is hosting a workshop called Gray Area Thinking on Sunday, May 5. See the link (page 7) in the SAIL or watch at church for more info.

The next Core Team meeting will be on Monday, March 18, 2024 at 6:30pm. Full minutes of Core Team meetings can be found at <https://htumc.org/core-team/>.

We are in a state of flux right now, as far as Finance is concerned.

As far as the budget goes, we won't know the expense of the new Pastor. That compensation could increase. I am estimating a shortfall of \$24,000.00

The final pledge numbers for the year are: 62 pledging units and \$213,506.00 pledged.

Property insurance is going up by another \$3000.00. Last year it went up by \$8000.00. So in 2022 our insurance for the year was slightly over \$8000.00, In March of last year, slightly over \$16,000.00. This year \$19,004.57. Our renewal is in March. Insurance on the van is \$1000.00, that could more than double this year.

This is now the new norm. In the South, some Methodists Churches are not being insured at all.

The Building Fund has \$218,792.71. Last month it was \$226,789.84. Money was taken out to cover the cost of the new furnace.

Our General Fund has \$92,000.00. \$60,000.00 is held in reserve to cover two months of expenses. This means that we have only \$32,000.00 available for the Operating Fund. Last year we had to move \$20,000.00 from the General Fund to the Operating Fund to cover expenses.

Patrick Rasmussen
prasmussen68@gmail.com



Dustin and Julia Guenther

Address: 14727 Cherry Ct, Prior Lake, MN 55372

Email Address: dustin.guenther@gmail.com

Dustin cell: 612-554-1951

Julia cell: 952-210-8134

David (Dave) and Carrie Chapman

Address: 801 Riverview Ln., Belle Plaine, MN 56011

Email Address: carrie.chapman@mnsu.edu

Dave cell: (812) 345-5122

Carrie cell: (812) 345-2171

Emil (Butch) and Carrie Trebesch

Dan and Ardys Sabin

Grace Swanson

Carol Thompson

Congratulations! 

Congratulations to our 2024 Confirmands!

Jameson Keith Zehnder and Marin Leigh Erlandson



A light meal of soup and 'simple' sandwiches will be served on Wednesday nights during Lent at 5:30pm, through March 20. **However, we still need some help—especially on March 13.** Please take a look at the signup and help where you can.

<https://bit.ly/htumcSOUPERheroes2024>

Easter Offering 2024

The Easter offering this year will go to the Minnesota Annual Conference Love Offering. Each year, churches in the Minnesota Annual Conference take a Love Offering for missions in conjunction with our Annual Conference Session. Drawing from Isaiah 43:1, the theme of this year's Annual Conference is "Jesus. Redeemer."



United Women in Faith

United Women in Faith Gathering for March Tuesday, March 12 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

Trinity Readers

Tuesday, March 26

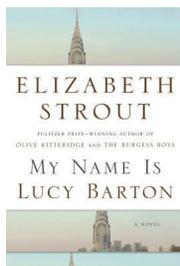
1:30pm at the Parsonage



If you enjoy reading and discussing books, join us!

**The book for March:
My Name Is Lucy Barton
by Elizabeth Strout**

A simple hospital visit becomes a portal to the tender relationship between mother and daughter in this extraordinary novel.



Venmo Now Available!

We are excited to share that VENMO giving is now a possibility!

This option is in addition to what is currently available and not meant as a replacement for checks or scheduled electronic donations. You will now be able to scan the QR code below (this will also be available at the church) 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. For example, mission of the month, bible study book, bread oven, UWF, etc. 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. If you would like to learn more about this, please reach out to the Finance Team.



Scan the QR code or enter @holy-trinity-umc in the Venmo App.

Look for our logo to make sure it's us!



Lakefront Bible Study

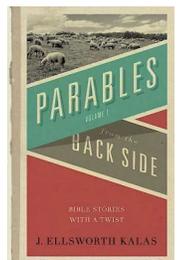
March 5 & 19

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.





Palm Sunday—Sunday, March 24, 9:30am:

On this day, we will begin with the traditional procession with palms and then the Chancel Choir will be presenting their Lenten cantata.

Maundy Thursday—Thursday, March 28, 6:30pm:

“Crucified!” - Jesus dies as a criminal, hung on a cross between two outlaws. Even in death Jesus continues to identify with the lowly.

Easter Sunday—Sunday, March 31, 9:30am:

“Alive!” - The Resurrection is God’s final act of lifting up the lowly. In the Resurrection, Jesus defeats death and evil.



Camp Firelight VBS 2024 (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/>

Gray Area Thinking® 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®. 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 in early June, but time flies, and the sooner we connect the better we will be prepared to honor your accomplishment!

Inclusion Starts with I...

I love celebrations – always have and always will. I love holidays, birthdays, anniversaries, showers, weddings – just about anything there is to celebrate. On March 5th of last year, we officially became a Reconciling Congregation, with a beautiful celebration in April. It is now time to celebrate our One Year Anniversary. We've had a successful year in our mission of radical hospitality by welcoming groups such as the Flames from Centennial United Methodist Church, by having greeters at both doors every single Sunday, and by having monthly emphases that educate and inform us about marginalized communities, always being aware that we have people in this church who are directly affected by each emphasis that we have featured. Pastor Chad's Lenten series entitled "Luke: Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts, and Outlaws" fits right into this mission. I'm not a gardener, but Rene Meyer said that she sees our mission of Loving All as being like a taproot. I had to look it up, but I discovered that a taproot is a large, central, and dominant root from which other roots sprout laterally. Our taproot is LOVE – all else springs from there. **I hope that you can join us after church on Sunday, March 3rd to celebrate our First Anniversary.**

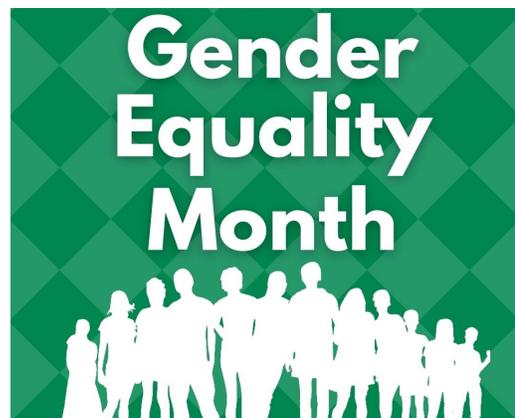
In the meantime we will continue to grow our mission of radical hospitality in several ways. Watch for news on "Gardening with Grace," which is part of our new Fresh Expressions initiative. We have a very exciting start. **Mark your calendars for Sunday, May 5th from 6:30-8:30 pm when we will be welcoming Ellie Krug to run her workshop entitled "Gray Area Thinking."** It will be a thought-provoking evening where we are invited to delve into our own identities. She will open your hearts and minds to further understanding. We also hope to have the Flames back again this year.

March is Gender Equality Month. What does this mean? Gender equity is the process of being fair to women and men. Gender equity recognizes that women and gender-diverse people are not in the same "starting position" as men, thus strategies and measures must often be available to help create a level playing field. Equity leads to equality. Information and signage will be available, but even though strides seem to be made,

Continued above...

more needs to be done, especially on a world-wide level. This is something that I have personally experienced, especially in my high school and college years. From having "hours" in my college dorm (the boys didn't) to making less money than high school boys when I worked at McDonalds (because I wasn't allowed to work in certain areas) to not having any access to high school sports, I was made to feel "less than." I am part of the very first generation of women who could actually have my own credit card after we got married in 1973. Obviously, these are very minor issues compared to what others have gone through, but they didn't feel minor to me at the time. That is why it is so important for all of us to "walk in another person's shoes" and to not judge. All means All, and Love is Love. Remember *Inclusion starts with I.*

By: Carol Ottoson



Gender Equality Month Activities

1.) Appreciate the women in your life.

Appreciate the achievements of women and the hard work they put in to achieve them. Against all odds and against rapid discrimination in society, women continue to succeed.

2.) Educate people against gender bias.

Gender bias is a prevalent issue in society, and people tend to associate it with small things in life. Unlearn the gender bias, and teach people to do so too.

3.) Read up about the equality struggle.

Learn the vast and intricate history of the struggle for equality. Read up about the long sacrifices and struggles of marginalized groups.



March 2024

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 9:30am Worship/ Live-Stream 10:30am Small Group  1 Year Anniversary	4 7pm Al-Anon at the parsonage	5  1-2:30pm Lakefront Bible Study 7pm CoDA at the parsonage	6 8:30am Moment of Prayer 4pm Bells Practice 5:30pm Soup Supper 6:15pm Small Groups 7pm Choir Rehearsal	7 6pm Veterans AA at the parsonage	8	9
10 9:30am Worship/ Live-Stream 10:30am Small Group 10:30am I Team Meeting 	11 7pm Al-Anon at the parsonage	12  United Women in Faith 2:00pm UWFaith 7pm CoDA at the parsonage	13 8:30am Moment of Prayer 4pm Bells Practice 5:30pm Soup Supper 6:15pm Small Groups 7pm Choir Rehearsal	14 6pm Veterans AA at the parsonage	15	16
17 9:30am Worship/ Live-Stream 10:30am Small Group	18 6:30pm Core Team Meeting 7pm Al-Anon at the parsonage	19 1-3:15pm Quilters  1-2:30pm Lakefront Bible Study 7pm CoDA at the parsonage	20 8:30am Moment of Prayer 4pm Bells Practice 5:30pm Soup Supper 6:15pm Small Groups 7pm Choir Rehearsal	21 6pm Veterans AA at the parsonage	22	23
24 PALM SUNDAY 9:30am Worship/ Live-Stream 10:30am Small Group	25 7pm Al-Anon at the parsonage	26  1:30pm Trinity Readers 7pm CoDA at the parsonage	27 8:30am Moment of Prayer 4pm Bells Practice 7pm Choir Rehearsal	28 Maundy Thursday  6:30pm Worship 6pm Veterans AA at the parsonage	29	30
31 9:30am Worship/ Live-Stream 	7pm Al-Anon at the parsonage	7pm CoDA at the parsonage	7pm Choir Rehearsal	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



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