



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!"*

August, 2024



Re-Shaped

When I was in high school – 40 years and far more than 40 pounds ago – I was a sprinter on the track and field team. I was no good for long distance races, but for the short runs I was the fastest on the team. My body was almost as fast as my head. You see, my head is always moving at full speed – full of ideas and tasks that need to be accomplished. My head leads the way and my body had better keep up!

That worked fairly well until about age 35, when my body began to protest. And the older I get, the louder the protests. It appears that erratic mealtimes and sporadic exercise are something one gets away with in younger years, but less so when middle age sets in – and if I'm still going to claim middle age, I need to live a good long time. It seems wrong to me that the body slows down as much as it does – because the older we get, the less time we have and the faster the years seem to go by. My need for speed seems greater, not less! A year becomes a relatively shorter period of time once you have a number of them behind you.

Also, the world is moving at lightning speed. There are constant and rapid changes in technology and changes in the social and political landscape. Social media and constant information is at our fingertips at all times. Keeping up with new ideas and methodologies in our work requires energy and vigilance. It can be overwhelming, even paralyzing at times.

I think that's why it is so hard for us to accept change in the church. Church is the place we go to connect to the eternal, to our source of being. It's where we ground ourselves, and is the one thing we count on in an uncertain world. This is why the use of ritual is so important in our worship. We crave that constancy.

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Pastor Leigh continued...

And yet, we also crave the movement of the Spirit – a sense of excitement, renewal, and purpose in our lives and in our church. Our Gardening with Grace and Bread Oven ministries are evidence of this – Fresh Expressions, as we are calling our outreach ministries now. We can still improve in how we reach into the community and work alongside the community through these ministries, but the Spirit is there and the work has begun. The key to change is to find the right time and the right pace.

I'm so excited to be here, and I've become aware of my personal tendency to want to move quickly. There is still a sprinter somewhere inside this body – a very frustrated sprinter, no doubt. But I have much to learn about Holy Trinity and Prior Lake, and so I have been reminding myself to take it easy. You too may have to challenge yourself to slow down, or perhaps you are one who must challenge yourself to speed up! We look to God to help us navigate the waters of change and new possibilities.

This year we will celebrate our Kick-off Sunday on September 8 with a commitment to opening our hearts to God's rhythm and influence, through a worship series called *Re-Shaped*. We'll begin by immersing ourselves in the idea that change is what we are made for – that we are actually made and equipped by a Creator that knew we would need to be partners and agents of change throughout history.

We don't change for the sake of changing – we are called to change. When we believe we have heard that call, we spend time discerning just what it is God is luring us to do, until we are ready to let go of "what is" in favor of "what is possible". In opening ourselves to be Re-Shaped, grace – with each other and with oneself – is the key. The grace to offer help and the grace to ask for help and receive it. The grace to allow for experimentation and failure on the path to new creation. The grace to be authentically who we are, accepted and loved.

I have witnessed grace, love, and the movement of the Spirit in this place. And I am so grateful and blessed for the warm welcome I have received at Holy Trinity!

Pastor Leigh

Walk to Emmaus

Walk to Emmaus is a three-day retreat designed by Upper Room ministries to dive deeply into the mystery and everyday miracle of a lively faith in Jesus Christ. If your faith has come to feel routine or flat, or if you feel a calling toward a re-invigorated communion with God, then you may find what you need in the supportive Emmaus community. Each day there will be worship, music, time for private reflection, sharing by leaders, and opportunities for discussion and sharing with other people in attendance, known as pilgrims. People stay in modest but private rooms at the retreat center in Fairmont and will be provided with meals and snacks throughout the event.

Questions? Speak with past pilgrims: Lynnette Dobberpuhl, Larry Nace, Paula Green, Carol Ottoson, Connie Scott, Kay Petterson, and Karen Nau, or you can find more information at <https://www.mnemmaus.org/page/what-is-mn-wte>

The next Men's Walk is September 12-15, 2024.

The next Women's Walk is September 19-22, 2024.

Many sponsorships are available.



UWFaith Goes School Supply Shopping!

Holy Trinity's United Women in Faith recently purchased and filled three back packs and filled them very full with school supplies for the July Mission of the Month – CAP's Project Student Success School Supply Drive. Extra supplies were also donated. Happy shoppers were Sharon Dougherty, Martha Carlson and Marla Fulkerson.

The Weeds

I was in Spearfish Canyon, at the cabin again in July. The creek bed is a lovely, wild place, an absolute chaos of green things, flowering, tangling, literally growing out of rocks, and erupting with life. To an uneducated eye, everything looks healthy and pretty, but last year I learned to be wary of one of the plants, Common Tansy. It is not native to the area but was brought in for its medicinal value by some of the earliest colonizers, miners looking to profit off of the gold, and other folks looking to profit off the miners. The medicinal value of tansy is questionable, it can be toxic in large enough amounts, but the real problem is that once it was established it was never going to leave.

Tansy grows two to three feet tall, with ferny leaves and bright yellow button shaped flowers. I found one in the creek bed and as I pulled it, its bruised leaves emitted an interesting aroma, like some kind of spicy, woody perfume. The roots came up with a sense of something snapping as I pulled it and I could see where one thick rootlet had broken off pointing sideways...toward the next plant. Tansy spreads by seed from the flowers, but also through the roots. Leaving even a small bit of the root means more will be growing soon. They spread so easily, that if you do pull them up you are advised not to let them compost, but bag them up in plastic right where you stand and have them hauled to the dump or they will spread even from a small rootlet dropping off the dead plant. Looking around I saw more tansy. Lots more. I could suddenly see how it was taking over space where native flowers and grasses usually grew. Concerned, I uprooted more and more of it. I pulled up three full lawn and leaf bags full of tansy plants, and under the hot sun that pungent smell and those pretty flowers and leaves became ugly to my nose and eyes. I was seeing them for what they were; noxious weeds.

There is an opportunity to reflect when you are pulling up bags full of weeds by yourself in a canyon with no cellphone signal. I began to wonder about other areas of my life that succumb to infestations of noxious influences. Where in my life did something that seemed innocent and fun, like a game on my phone, start to take over more and more time and

space until I was mindlessly scrolling long past the time I needed to go to sleep? Or when did the impulse to be critical, which started as a desire to keep things nice (in my opinion) become a habit of negativity, always looking for what is wrong, and assuming the worst? Once you start seeing the issue, like tansy, you must decide if you are going to fight it or just let the weeds have their way. And fighting it is WORK. Pushing yourself to use your time better when you are tired and just want to numbly tap on your mobile device is work. Hearing yourself complain, and asking yourself if you are being fair, or kind, or even truthful is humbling and upsetting and work. But, like pulling weeds, the work can become habit forming. The more you do it, the easier it is to keep at it, and the healthier the garden becomes.

This year when we came back to the cabin, unsurprisingly, the tansy was back too. I uprooted and bagged more of it, and it was still a lot of work, but this time it seemed like there were fewer weeds and I covered more area, as though more of the land was returning to what nature intended. I will never get to the point where it is all done. Even if it was all pulled up, more seeds and rootlets will blow in on the wind and be carried in by the stream. But by cleaning up what I can, my own area looks better, and I help stop the spread of weeds to my neighbor's place. Can we, by choosing things like forgiveness, faith, and humility, learned through the lessons Jesus taught, find ourselves improved and also be an influence toward a healthier world? I think we can. I think we are called to do so. Sure, at first it might feel like work, but God equips us for this kind of work. According to Genesis, we were created to be gardeners, and there is no better place or time to begin than here and now. Ask God to help you see the weeds that have begun to invade your thinking or living, and pray for help to begin the work.



Lynnette Dobberpuhl
Children, Youth & Family
Coordinator
kidsandfamilies@htumc.org
651-492-8188

August Mission of the Month



NO KID SLEEPS ON THE FLOOR IN OUR TOWN!

All children deserve a safe, comfortable place to lay their heads. All across the US, too many boys and girls go without a bed—or even a pillow—to sleep on. These children end up sleeping on couches, blankets, and even floors. This can affect their happiness and health.

That's where **Sleep in Heavenly Peace (SHP)** comes in. They're a group of volunteers dedicated to building, assembling and delivering top-notch bunk beds to children and families in need. At SHP, they fully believe that a bed is a basic need for the proper physical, emotional, and mental support that a child needs.

Child bedlessness is a national problem, and as a national nonprofit with chapters spread across the country, SHP has provided the solution. The Twin Cities South chapter is funded locally, the work is done by local volunteers, and the beds are delivered to local kids.

Here are ways **YOU** can help...

- Drop off new twin-sized comforters, sheet sets, pillows, and bed-in-a-bag sets in the narthex
- Provide financial support to purchase lumber, tools, hardware, and mattresses
- Attend the bed building event at SHP in Burnsville on Saturday, September 14 at 8:30 AM (see below)

Bed Building Event

September 14—Save the Date and join us to build beds for kids in our community who are without a bed. We will cut, sand, assemble and finish bed components. No experience, no worries! These builds are designed with everyone in mind. It's easy and it's fun! A few hours of your time will mean the world to a child sleeping in an unfavorable condition.

Please sign up HERE (make sure to choose the Saturday, Sept 14 8:30AM-10:45AM time slot):

<https://x.gldn.io/e/twIC0fKFtLb>

Inclusion Starts with I

By Carol Ottoson

Does this sound familiar? “Sticks and stones may break my bones but names (or words) will never hurt me.” I certainly grew up hearing this constantly, and maybe I even believed it for a while. I certainly don't believe it anymore. Words do matter, and words can shatter souls or even cause permanent damage to someone. The reality is that it may be easier to recover physically than to recover mentally. Words matter; pronouns matter; gender identity matters; name changes matter; being able to live an authentic life matters. The I Team's August emphasis is “Don't be a Bully.” We aren't only reminding kids to not be a bully, but we are also reminding ourselves (me included) to follow the Golden Rule and treat others the way that we want to be treated. As most of you know, I have spent nearly my entire life in the classroom. I have seen the ramifications of bullying, even extending into the adulthood of some of my former students. My guiding principle for my entire life has been to respect others. How could I ever expect my students to respect me if I didn't respect them? That's the key to the anti-bullying campaign. We may have disagreements – we have certainly seen this in our political discourse – but we need to continue to work toward the fact that we are all children of God and need to treat each other with that in mind – always. We will have anti-bullying backpack (or briefcase/purse) tags for anyone who'd like one. I still wear my anti-bullying bracelet from last year's campaign every single Sunday to church. Of course, Jesus says it best in Matthew 22:37-40: *Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.* One other quick reminder as we move into the fall season is that we are keeping the volunteer information up for the foreseeable future. Take the time to look at the things you can do to contribute to our church community. It doesn't have to be time consuming – work at finding your “just one thing.” Right now, the garden especially needs volunteers. I am not a gardener, but I am a garden volunteer. Even a half hour a week helps – really! **Remember, Inclusion starts with I.**

Core Team and Finance Updates...

The Core Team met on Monday, July 22. Highlights of the discussion included:

- We welcomed Pastor Leigh to her first Core Team meeting, and offered our gratitude to Patrick Rasmussen for his time of serving as Finance Chair. He and Connie will be moving soon and this was his last Core Team meeting in that role.
- Finance: Although our income is currently at a better place than this time last year, finances are still at a shortfall and decisions about cutting costs or finding other sources of income will be needed to be made soon in order to get through the year without diminishing our required reserve (two-months' expenses). We are in the process of finding a Finance Chair replacement. We will be seeking a buyer for the church van.
- CYF: In July we hosted STORM camp, with 37 youth and adult campers plus eight staff and two band members, did 22 jobs in three days with nineteen HT volunteers doing tasks and eleven HT volunteers bringing in food. STORM loves working with Holy Trinity and will be returning July 13-17, 2025. We had great feedback from the people we served, and did experience some glitches which we will work to prevent next year. VBS has been switched to be a one night mini-event during Night to Unite (August 6) due to low registration (see below).
- Upcoming Events: Volunteers needed to be friendly neighbors at Night to Unite (6-8pm on 8/6), represent Holy Trinity at our booth at Fall Community Fest (9/6), and possibly hosting a haunted house to be set up in the parsonage, with alternative activities on the playground and parking lot on 10/25 & 26).
- Garden: Harvest is fun! Help us pick food for the Food Shelf. Contact Rene for more info schrton@aol.com.
- Land Sale: the parties interested in purchasing part of Holy Trinity's land are expected to contact us again in October. Conversations will be held prior to that time regarding what, if any, alternatives Holy Trinity would entertain (the amount of land or section that would be considered, valuation needed, type of use, etc). All active members will have an opportunity to participate in these discussions. Stay tuned for more information.

Full minutes will be added to <https://www.htumc.org/core-team/> The next meeting will be Monday, Aug 19.

Finance Update

Another good month, financially speaking for Holy Trinity. We are a plus \$18,548.32 through the first six months of the year. Last year at this time we were at a minus \$18,032.66.

Why the turn around? The basic answer is that giving, pledged and unpledged, is up from last year. We are getting new members as well.

Although we didn't meet our goal with the Close the Gap campaign, the money that was raised accounts for half of the monies that has put us in the black.

A big thank you goes out to all of you.

This is my last message to you as head of the finance team. I appreciate all the input I have received from you. Thanks to you, Holy Trinity is heading in the right direction.

Patrick Rasmussen (prasmussen68@gmail.com)



Camp Firelight VBS

August 6: 6-8pm

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

This is a one-night program offered at no cost to the participants. Best for grades K-4. VBS includes lots of fun activities! No registration required.

Thank you for donating
**\$776 to Reconciling
Ministries** during the
month of June.

**Thank
you!**



Tuesday, August 6, 2024 6pm-8pm
Holy Trinity UMC Parking Lot

Night to Unite is a statewide celebration which takes place on the first Tuesday of August every year. The program seeks to strengthen neighborhood and community partnerships, raise awareness about drug and crime prevention, provide info about future and current city projects, and just allows time to get to know your local government in a fun social setting.

Holy Trinity will take part in this celebration by hosting a neighborhood block party and providing free food (hot dogs/hamburgers/chips/cookies), fun yard games, a bouncy house and time for fellowship. Hopefully some city vehicles will stop by as well!

Each year, the City of Prior Lake chooses a local organization to support. This year's Night to Unite donation recipient is Southern Valley Alliance. Please consider donating gift cards to help victims and survivors of domestic abuse in Carver and Scott Counties. Suggestions include...

- ♦ Grocery Cards
- ♦ McDonald's/Culvers
- ♦ Jimmy John's/Subway
- ♦ Domino's Pizza
- ♦ Target/Walmart
- ♦ Amazon



Save the Date!

Sunday, Sept. 8

9:30am Worship
10:30am Fun
and Fellowship



United
Women
in Faith

August United Women in Faith Gathering

Please join us for a

"Summer Picnic in the Park"

TUESDAY, AUGUST 13th - 12:00pm

Location: Picnic Shelter at WILDS PARK

15200 Wilds Parkway, Prior Lake

Potluck: Bring a dish to share
(main dishes or salads only).

Sloppy Joes and Dessert will be furnished along with
Lemonade and Bottled Water and Dinnerware.

Picnic tables are available but bring a Portable
Camping Chair if you wish.

RAIN OR SHINE (if rain, we'll dine in Fellowship Hall)

Pastor Leigh will join us! We will also celebrate
August birthdays and bid Farewell to Connie Scott!

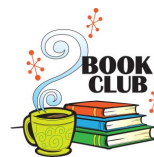
All women are invited!

****If you'd like a ride from the church parking lot,
please meet there at 11:45am, but please notify
Nancy Iverson at 612-747-1630**

by no later than Monday, August 12th**

For questions, please contact Sharon Dougherty at
sdsrdougherty@gmail.com or 612-280-2103.

Come and join us for lunch together! Invite a friend!

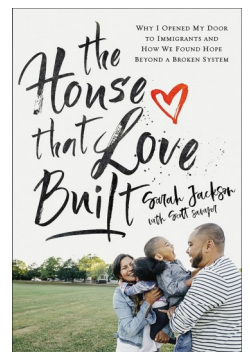


Trinity Readers
Tuesday, August 27
2:00pm Church Library

If you enjoy reading and discussing books, join us!

**The book for August: *The House that Love Built*
by Sarah Jackson**

The quintessential story of one woman's questioning what it means to be an American--and a Christian--in light of a broken immigration system. Through tender stories of opening her heart and home to immigrants, Sarah Jackson shines a holy light on loving our neighbor.





August 2024

Holy Trinity UMC

(952) 447-2990

office@htumc.org

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
				1 6pm Veterans AA at the parsonage	2	3
4 9:30am Worship/ Live-Stream	5 7pm Al-Anon at the parsonage	6  NIGHT to UNITE! 6:00pm-8:00pm 6-8pm Vacation Bible School 7pm CoDA at the parsonage	7	8 6pm Veterans AA at the parsonage	9	10
11 9:30am Worship/ Live-Stream	12 7pm Al-Anon at the parsonage	13  United Women in Faith 12:00pm UW Faith Picnic in the Park 7pm CoDA at the parsonage	14	15 6pm Veterans AA at the parsonage	16	17
18 9:30am Worship/ Live-Stream	19 6:30pm Core Team Meeting 7pm Al-Anon at the parsonage	20 1-3:15pm Quilters 7pm CoDA at the parsonage	21	22 6pm Veterans AA at the parsonage	23	24
25 9:30am Worship/ Live-Stream	26 7pm Al-Anon at the parsonage	27  2:00pm Trinity Readers 7pm CoDA at the parsonage	28	29 6pm Veterans AA at the parsonage	30	31

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

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



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