



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!"*

April, 2025



Resurrection and Rebirth

Easter comes a bit late this year, on the third Sunday in April. We have a few weeks to go before we get there. We will have a wonderful service of celebration on Easter Sunday, of course, and an Easter egg hunt for the children after the service! But before we get to Easter, we pass through Holy Week. We will have meaningful services, starting on Palm Sunday with our triumphant Palm Parade to celebrate Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. There will be a very special guest on Palm Sunday during the children's sermon – parents, be sure to bring the kids so they don't miss our guest!

Our Maundy Thursday service will be called Stations of Peter, and will include candlelight and communion. Our Good Friday service will feature a beautiful choir cantata. Each year I encourage folks to attend Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services as well as Easter Sunday. Holy Week is a journey, and we can't really experience the Resurrection without experiencing first the Cross. Death always comes before Resurrection.

Years ago, in 2012 and 2013, I had my own personal holy week experiences. In 2012, in the week prior to Holy Week, my mother died. She had an emergency surgery and her recovery appeared to be progressing, but then for a number of reasons her health began to decline. Her funeral was on the Friday prior to Palm Sunday. In 2013, in the week prior to Holy Week, I received a call from the Cedar Rapids police department, notifying me that my father had died. My father's death was completely unexpected. His funeral was also on the Friday prior to Palm Sunday. Holy Week for me in those two years was a combination of rushing to prepare for the worship services and trying to process what almost seemed like a dream.

The miracle of Easter is that God always has the last word. We rejoice at new beginnings, and it is our hope that

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sustains us. But the death part is hard – whether it is the death of a dream, or a job, or a season of our lives, or life itself. I think in our world of pharmaceuticals, therapy and cosmetic surgery, we have come to believe (or at least to wish) that we can avoid suffering and the unwanted transitions that are a normal part of life. But then something unexpected and tragic happens. Or maybe we just look in the mirror and – yikes! – there is another wrinkle or another grey hair. Or maybe the grey has completely taken over. I don't think most of us feel (at least mentally) as old as we are, and that reflection in the mirror occasionally catches us off guard. Life's heartbreaks catch us off guard as well.

Easter is our reminder that after winter comes spring. The peonies will bloom, the buds will appear on the trees – everything will spring back to life after the cold dormant winter. It is a resurrection of creation in harmony with the resurrection of Christ that we will be celebrating come Easter Sunday.

Holy Trinity is also in the midst of rebirth. Not that we have ever been dead! This church has remained strong and vibrant and faithful through many transitions, some difficult and some joyful: A congregational division long ago, a denominational division not so long ago, a pandemic, commitments to inclusivity and new ministries, and pastoral transitions, including this new pastor's arrival last July. As individuals and as a congregation, we are continually called to grow and change.

Christ's resurrection is the event that paves the way for our journey. The Christian faith does not just look back to a great teacher and example, but forward to where Christ leads. Jesus calls us to follow him on a path that is overflowing with possibility and purpose. As we move forward, we will continue to build on the strength and tradition of our past. I feel so blessed to be in ministry with you. Put on your shades – the future is bright!



***Inclusion Starts with I* by Carol Ottoson**

My latest mantra is actually the mantra that the I Team has been embracing since we became a Reconciling Congregation -- "Lead with Love." Lead with love – in every action that you do, think about the love behind that action. We finished our *Love Your Neighbor* campaign at the end of March with a Tower of Love competition using our donations to the CAP Agency's food shelf. Our goal with this whole campaign has been to encourage all of us to step out of our comfort zone and do more with advocacy, education, and service to others. The purpose has been to be intentional in sharing our love for others. Even though the campaign is "over," I certainly hope that your intentional "leading with love" actions continue throughout your lives. There is so much division and vitriol out there that some days it becomes very hard to heed Jesus' call to love all, including our enemies. I have to admit I had some remarkable experiences happen to me (and my family) since the beginning of this campaign, and I'm even more determined to be what I am calling the "best version of myself" as I move forward. As we move into our second quarter (April-June) – *Do Unto Others* – I hope that you will live Jesus' words in Matthew 7:12, "So in everything, *do to others what you would have them do to you*, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets." I will continue to stand up for immigrants, for the LGBTQ+ community, especially my trans friends, for people who are being bullied, for people who are living in domestic violence situations, for all of the lost and all of the least. Jesus has taught us well, and as Christians we have a mandate to live out his teachings.

As we move through Lent and into Easter this year, our lives should be informed, as well as transformed, by the lessons Jesus taught us, both in how he lived his life and how he faced his death. Jesus' love and acceptance of others knows no bounds. He is very clear in the importance of loving all: "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." (Matthew 22:37-39). In other words Jesus commands us to "Lead with Love." Happy Spring, Happy Easter, and remember, ***Inclusion starts with I.***

Unexpected Lessons

Yesterday it was my turn to lead in Kids' Church. We had a fifth grader, two first graders, three preschoolers and a toddler. Luckily, we also had two youth and a bonus adult helper, because as you can imagine, with an age spread like that, leading in any meaningful way can be a challenge. Our measure of success is that kids leave knowing they are loved. But, if the kids are restless and you feel frazzled, it can be REALLY hard to get that "show them they are loved" thing across. When I was a parent of kids these ages, I was frazzled all the time. And I felt like I was failing all the time. The differences between me as a young parent, and me as a seasoned leader in Kids' Church are numerous, not the least that yesterday I had helpers who were available and excellent. However two particular differences are key to what makes me effective as a Kids' leader and in general have improved me as a human being.

The first key difference is confidence; as a young parent, I struggled with confidence in myself, and confidence in God's work in our family life. I was pretty sure it was all up to me and I was wrecking my kids chances of growing into *kind people* who could *think critically* and *apply effort* toward having *fulfilling lives* and *making the world a better place* (my own parent goals.) I knew Jesus taught we were loved and welcomed as we were, but back then I was too absorbed in trying to "get it right" and too focused on all the ways I was getting it wrong. The real turnaround happened when I began testing the promise that God would be with me in uncertainty. When I stopped trying to manage everything into a controllable state and just started showing up at Parent Teacher conferences trusting that God had it in hand and would help us, the tension I brought into our relationships reduced, and the outcomes pretty much stayed the same. I now know firsthand that when we choose to have confidence in our belovedness we start to be liberated from fearing judgement and from judging ourselves. This confidence open us up to gratitude toward God, and a desire to know more about what Jesus taught.

The second key difference between me then and now is joy. All that fear of getting it wrong, plus the daily overwhelm that is a hallmark of parenting small kids took far too much of the joy of those early years out

of me. I have many beautiful memories of that time, but when I think of joy as a parent the first thing I think of is the relief I felt when everyone was finally in bed and we'd survived another day. That isn't terrible, it is far better than hopelessness or anger that things aren't going better (which are also feelings I have experienced), but relief isn't the abundant life God promises us through Jesus. Joy results first from trusting that God's power is immense and that God's plan is at work always, even when our own plans aren't going well, even when things seem extraordinarily bad. Trusting God empowers us to do the things Jesus tells us to do, for example, seeking God's will (trusting God with our lives), forgiving those who have wronged us (trusting God with our hurt), and loving others when they are hard to love (trusting that despite appearances they are another beloved child of God). From this comes even greater joy.

On Sunday morning, confidence and joy transformed a Bible story, some watercolor paints, glue, tissue paper, stickers and a handful of uncertain and restless kids from a potential mess into a celebration. Sure, some of those kids may have gone home thinking the story was about the First Lunch instead of the Last Supper, and the words "Remember me" may not be remembered, but I know that the joy and confidence breathed into the lesson and into the sharing of craft supplies made an impact on them. Furthermore, I believe that reminding them they are loved by Jesus and by their church planted seeds within them that will grow.

Even though the curriculum we use might not list out the following as learning objectives, these are absolutely lessons we can take from Kids' Church just about any week we meet:

- Trust God and let go of the desire to control and manage the unmanageable.
- Seek God first and the rest will come.
- Lean on your helpers and then support and encourage them, too.
- Nurture and nourish the seeds of joy and confidence that have been planted in you, by God and by your church community, and then share them with the world!

April Mission of the Month



Southern Valley Alliance is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing victims of domestic violence and their families with support, referrals, protection and advocacy. They proudly serve Carver and Scott counties in Minnesota.

They are a prevention and solutions-focused organization partnering with law enforcement, county legal systems, social services and healthcare providers to make the communities of Scott and Carver counties a better, safer place to live. Their journey continues as they support and empower victims, survivors and their families, and create awareness to **End Domestic Violence** in our communities.

Today, SVA continues to be the only nonprofit domestic violence agency located in Scott and Carver counties. Since its founding, the organization has assisted more than 24,000 women, men and children as they try to live healthy, violence-free lives.

SERVING THOSE IN NEED



Last year, SVA served 1,118 victim-survivors with our programs and services. Core programs include a 24/7 phone line and crisis intervention, support groups, court advocacy, transitional housing, and community education.

CRISIS INTERVENTION



Victim-survivors call us in their time of greatest need. 2,251 calls to our crisis line were answered by trained staff and volunteer advocates. This line can also be utilized by concerned family and friends that may have questions.

MOVE TO SHAKOPEE



SVA moved into the new Domestic Abuse Advocacy Center located in downtown Shakopee. This convenient location is close to public transportation, county services and community partners.

EDUCATING OUR COMMUNITY



SVA provides community outreach and education to teach about domestic violence and healthy relationships. Last year, 2,566 adults and youth attended a training session.

www.svamn.org | 952-873-4214

Thank you for donating **\$875**
to SURJ Education Fund
during the month of
February!



Your generous donations to the Showing Up for Racial Justice Education Fund (SURJ-EF) will support their 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.



The Easter offering this year will go to the Minnesota Annual Conference Love Offering. Each year, churches in the Minnesota Conference take a Love Offering for missions in conjunction with the Annual Conference Session. Drawing on 1 John 4:7-21, the theme for 2025 is "Created for Love."

This year the Love Offering will be used to support:

- 30% to Africa University (<https://africau.edu>)
- 30% to Immigration Law and Justice Network, a program of UMCOR (<https://iljnetwork.org/>)
- 20% to OC Ministries (<https://www.ocministriesmn.org/>)
- 20% to Midwest Mission (<https://www.midwestmission.org/>)

He is not here; he has

RISEN,

Just as he said.

- MATTHEW 28:6

Core Team Corner and Announcements...

The Core Team met on Monday, March 17. Highlights of the discussion included:

- The last day of Kids' Church for this season will be on Sunday, May 4th. We will celebrate our kids and teachers, as well as the 10 year employment anniversary of our extraordinary children, youth, and families' program director Lynnette! Worship that day will be followed by a big brick oven Pizza Party!
- Our present quarterly I Team focus, *Love Your Neighbor*, will conclude on Sunday, March 30. March is the Minnesota Foodshare Campaign month, and we will be building a Food Tower of Love after worship.
- Next quarter, our I Team focus will be *Do Unto Others*, centered on bullying, domestic violence, and LGBTQ+ Pride. Our Sunday, May 18 worship service will feature a speaker from The Aliveness Project, a program that meets a variety of needs for people living with HIV and those who are most at risk of being diagnosed with HIV in their lifetimes. The possibility of a June event at Holy Trinity to celebrate Pride was discussed (featuring Bingo!), and Holy Trinity will work at the MN Reconciling Ministries Pride booth sometime during June 28 or June 29.

The next Core Team meeting will be Monday, April 28 at 6:30pm. Full minutes can be found at:

<https://www.htumc.org/core-team/>.



VBS 2025

Join us at Holy Trinity for four evenings of friendship, fun, food and finding out what trust in God is all about!

Monday-Thursday—June 23-26

5:30pm-8:00pm

No Cost

- For kids age 3-entering 6th grade
 - crafts, science, games, music, and stories
 - dinner included (free)
 - register by Sunday June 8 at <https://bit.ly/CampFirelight-UMCs>
- OR use the QR code →



**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.



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 13-10:30am July 17**. Mark your calendars now for one of the most amazing and unique experiences you will ever have! Contact Lynnette for more info.

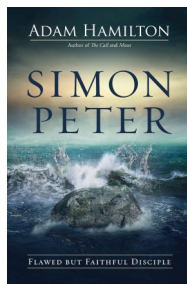
Church Announcements...

Lenten Group Study

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

Wednesdays April 2-April 23, 5:45-6:45PM
(excluding April 16th due to Holy Week)

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.



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

- April 2 - soup by Don Oram - hosted by Bell Choir
- April 9 - soup by Grace Swanson - hosted by United Woman in Faith



Holy Week



Sunday, April 13 - Palm Sunday
Palm Parade & Worship @ 9:30am



Thursday, April 17 - Maundy Thursday
Worship @ 7:00pm with Communion



Friday, April 18 - Good Friday
Worship & Choir Cantata @ 7:00pm



Sunday, April 20 - Easter Sunday
Worship @ 9:30am with Communion
Easter Egg Hunt after Worship



Holy Trinity will host an Easter Egg Hunt after worship on **Sunday, April 20** for elementary aged kids and younger. Easter treats and drinks will be available for all. Youth are needed to stuff and hide the eggs. Please reach out to Lynnette if you can help.



Last Day of Kid's Church & Brick Oven Pizza Party



Sunday, May 4

Our last day of Kids' Church will be Sunday, May 4th, and worship that day will be followed by a big brick oven pizza party to celebrate a great year with great kids and great leaders! Please mark your calendar and plan to help us finish off our year with lots of smiles. The following Sunday we will be shifting to our **summer nursery for infants through kids entering 2nd grade**, where we will be playing and doing simple art activities in the nursery. We will still have leaders, but no lessons, and if you are interested in helping out on the nursery rotation (probably about once every six weeks,) Lynnette would love to talk to you about what this involves! We are looking forward to putting a screen in the nursery to display the worship livestream, so leaders won't miss a thing.



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 Sunday, June 1**, but time flies, and the sooner we connect the better we will be prepared to honor your accomplishment!





United
Women
in Faith

United Women in Faith Gathering for April

Tuesday, April 8th at 2:00pm

-Meet in Fellowship Hall at the church-

We welcome all women to join as we gather for fellowship, devotions, study & projects to support local & global missions.

Please contact Sharon Dougherty for questions at sdsrdougherty@gmail.com or 612-280-2103.

Lakefront Bible Study

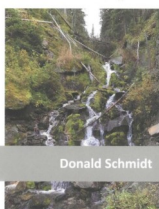
April 1 & 15

from 1:00-2:30pm

Lakefront Plaza Commons Room

Revelation

for Progressive Christians



Donald Schmidt

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, April 29

2:00pm Church Library

If you enjoy reading and discussing books, join us!

The book for April: *The Last Bookshop in London* by Madeline Martin



Inspired by the true World War II history of the few bookshops to survive the Blitz, The Last Bookshop in London is a timeless story of wartime loss, love and the enduring power of literature.



Holy Trinity is looking for volunteers to join us on our mission trip to Costa Rica Dec 27, 2025-Jan 3, 2026. Our team will be returning to Grecia where we will once again be partnering with Strong Missions to help this impoverished community with a variety of projects. On past trips, we have completed major home renovations for single moms, worked on a school addition, helped build a church & orphanage, taught Vacation Bible school, delivered food to low income families and made infrastructure improvements to the Mission grounds and a precario.

The trip is expected to cost ~\$950 for your food, lodging and transportation to and from the Liberia airport plus the cost of your flight from MSP. You can cover some of these expenses by helping with the four remaining fundraisers that we have scheduled prior to the trip.

On July 11th & 12th you can help park cars on the church grounds during Lakefront Music Fest. You can also volunteer to work at the event which will let you attend the event while also earning money for the trip. In the fall you can raise funds by volunteering to run the meat raffle at Country Primetime on Thursday evenings and by helping with a silent auction at church.

If you are considering going or if you have any questions about the trip, please reach out to Maia (612-618-8230) or Vic Noer (952-215-6392).














April 2025

Holy Trinity UMC

(952) 447-2990

office@htumc.org

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
		1  Bible Study 1-2:30pm Lakefront Bible Study 7pm CoDA at the parsonage	2  <i>Lenten Study</i> 4pm Bells Rehearsal 5:15pm Soup Supper 5:45pm Lenten Study 7pm Choir Rehearsal	3 11am Care Team Meeting 6pm Veterans AA at the parsonage	4	5  11:30am MRC Gathering
6 9:30am Worship/ Live-Stream	7 2-6pm Hope Collective 7pm Al-Anon at the parsonage	8  United Women in Faith 2:00pm UWfaith Fellowship Hall 7pm CoDA at the parsonage	9  <i>Lenten Study</i> 4pm Bells Rehearsal 5:15pm Soup Supper 5:45pm Lenten Study 7pm Choir Rehearsal	10 6pm Veterans AA at the parsonage	11	12
13 9:30am Worship/ Live-Stream  Palm Sunday	14 2-6pm Hope Collective 7pm Al-Anon at the parsonage	15 1-3:15pm Quilters  Bible Study 1-2:30pm Lakefront Bible Study 7pm CoDA at the parsonage	16 4pm Bells Rehearsal 7pm Choir Rehearsal	17  MAUNDY Thursday 7pm Worship 6pm Veterans AA at the parsonage	18  Good Friday 7pm Worship & Choir Cantata	19
20 9:30am Worship/ Live-Stream 10:30am Easter Egg Hunt  Easter Sunday	21  Easter Monday Church Office Closed 7pm Al-Anon at the parsonage	22 7pm CoDA at the parsonage	23  <i>Lenten Study</i> 4pm Bells Rehearsal 5:45pm Lenten Study 7pm Choir Rehearsal	24 6pm Veterans AA at the parsonage	25	26
27 9:30am Worship/ Live-Stream	28 2-6pm Hope Collective 6:30pm Core Team Meeting 7pm Al-Anon at the parsonage	29  Book Club 2:00pm Trinity Readers 7pm CoDA at the parsonage	30 4pm Bells Rehearsal 7pm Choir Rehearsal			

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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