



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!"

May, 2025



Yours is a Story Worth Hearing and Telling

One of the things I heard most from senior members at Coralville UMC, when I announced my new appointment at Holy Trinity, is "but I wanted you to be here to do my funeral." At former appointments I've often been complimented on funerals I officiated. I think this is because I know, or take the time to learn, the life stories of the person being celebrated, and then weave the stories into the funeral message – in a way that reveres the life that God created and shared with us. I think presiding over a funeral is one of a pastor's greatest privileges and honors. Not that I want to preside over *yours* anytime soon!

It's important to tell the story. One of the themes woven throughout our Lent/Easter sermon series and Lenten study on Simon Peter is the importance of telling one's own story, while we are still here, so that it might help others. Adam Hamilton makes the case that Peter, in sharing his faith story in the earliest days of the church, was honest about his fallibility. He believes this because the story of Peter's denial on the night of Jesus' trial and crucifixion is included in all four gospel accounts. In the hours of Jesus' greatest need, Peter transitioned from a bold declaration of unwavering loyalty – loyalty he claimed surpassed that of the other disciples – to a sequence of denials that he ever even *knew* Jesus. Each gospel account records Peter denying Jesus three times on the night of Christ's betrayal in the courtyard of the high priest.

History tends to treat its heroes kindly. One would expect that the Rock upon which the church was built would be remembered for his rock-like qualities – loyalty, passion, perseverance, and strength through adversity. But we remember the story of the denials perhaps more than any other story about Peter. Hamilton maintains that this must surely be because *Peter himself* told the story, again and again and again.

In this Issue

Pastor Leigh	1-2
Children, Youth & Family	3
Mission Corner	4
Inclusion Starts with I	5
Church Announcements	5-6
May 2025 Calendar	7

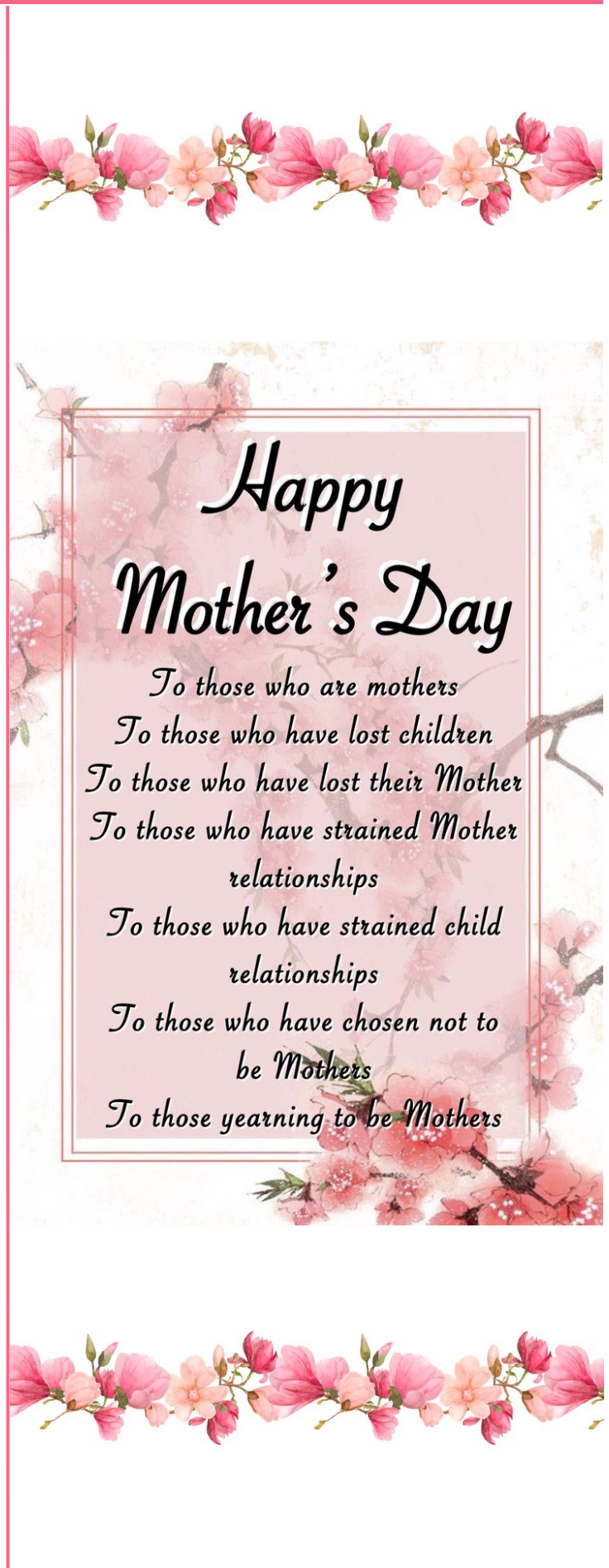
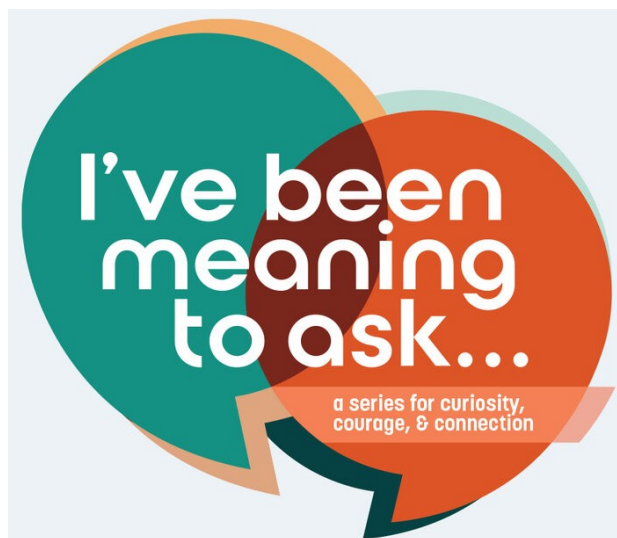
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Pastor Leigh continued...

Peter wanted us to remember the denials, because Peter wanted us to know that *our* stories – failures and all – are worthy of telling, and that none of us is outside the reach of Christ’s love and grace.

Telling one’s own story is not easy for a Minnesotan! Our next worship series, designed by *A Sanctified Art*, is focused on courageous conversations and connecting with one another. It address questions around interpersonal connections, and how we might treat others as we would like to be treated (The Golden Rule) – or even more, how we might discern and treat others the way that *they* would like to be treated (The Platinum Rule). We will consider questions like: “How can we listen to one another? How do we find connection despite physical and ideological distance? How do we create space for compassionate dialogue and for seeking the holy in one another?” While the solutions to these challenges feel daunting, the questions are simple. All courageous conversations begin with simple questions and the curiosity to truly listen. The series is shaped around guiding questions that lead us into connection with God and one another. My hope is that it will help us to disrupt assumptions, cultivate curiosity, foster listening, and find deeper connections.

Because each of us is a beloved creation of God, and each of us has a story worth telling.



Grace: Part One of a Three Part Prayer

As a youth growing up in the 1970's and '80s, I remember wishing the people of history had done some things differently. I learned the history of world warfare, and slavery, and the indefensible treatment of indigenous people. I learned about the oppression of workers, and the consequences of chemical waste and other environmental harm that had been done. At the time, I was indignant about how ignorance, greed and carelessness had created a slew of problems for my generation and was confident we would do better. Lol. Everything seems easy until you try to do it.

We continue to cause harm. Plastics seemed like such a miracle and for the sake of cheapness and convenience we went wild with it, and now the very real problem of microplastic is revealed. Today, much like throughout history, people sometimes intentionally choose harm for others to protect resources for themselves. We have excuses; "we didn't know," "it was for the greater good," and "it didn't seem so bad at the time." We have created so many new things that right now are making an impact on the world and have no idea what the consequences of it all will be. So, what do we do about it? We can love each other the best that we can. We can try to be gentle with each other and the earth. We can make do with less than we want, and make time, space and resources available for others. Like so many things right now, I realize this sounds like a political message, but it isn't. This is a gospel message.

I believe that even when we have the best of intentions, and are doing the best that we can, that we will still get it wrong at times and the value of what we get right will probably be underestimated. I know the youth of today can now point fingers at my generation, as well as the generations before, for contributing toward a state of the world that appears unpredictable, chaotic and even dangerous. This is what has led me to part one of my Grace to Us prayer:

Continued above...

*Lord, we pray your grace on the people of the past, including us, Lord, right up to this moment.
We pray with gratitude for efforts and best intentions, and we pray that our errors and sins are forgiven, knowing this forgiveness is intertwined with our forgiveness of those who have sinned against us.*

Our recent time in church has led us to many joyful gatherings, including a critical mass of kids and youth being present at the same time. This reminds us that there is a lot right with this world, and there is hopeful potential in the lives of all God's children, young and old. In God's grace we are made new, separating us from the past and giving us new priorities and new hope. How is God's grace, the undeserved love and forgiveness we receive through Christ, influencing our lives? Over the next month I will be reflecting on this and hope you will join me in the next SAIL for part two of the Grace Three Part Prayer.

Lynnette Dobberpuhl
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May Mission of the Month



RECLAIM's mission is to increase access to mental health care for queer and trans youth so they may reclaim their lives from oppression in all its forms. They're one of the only organizations in Minnesota that offers financially accessible, specialized mental health care to this population.

They serve youth ages 12-25 and their families by providing individual, couples, family, and group therapy. They specialize in assisting youth with gender identity and sexual orientation exploration, in addition to treating other mental health concerns impacting youth and young adults such as anxiety, depression, and pervasive trauma. Beyond their therapy work, RECLAIM engages in community events and offers training and consultation services to help their partners improve their ability to work with queer and trans folks.



I want to thank RECLAIM for being an integral part of the success story that is my child's journey. You helped him figure himself out in ways we did not think was possible. He seems genuinely happy and comfortable with his gender. Without your therapist, this would never have happened.

- Anonymous parent of client

Thank you for donating **\$1150 plus 382lbs of food** to the CAP Agency Food Shelf during the month of March!



On Sunday, March 30, several members and friends gathered after worship to build a "tower of love" house and garage structure from all the items collected for the CAP Agency Food Shelf. In total, we donated 382 pounds of food and hygiene items. Thank you to those who donated to this much needed cause!



Inclusion Starts with I and Announcements...

Every Sunday morning, as I get ready for church, I put on what I call my “bling.” I start with my nametag, which I never used to wear but now feel that’s part of what hospitality is all about. I then put my Reconciling Ministry pin over my nametag. That reminds me of who we are as a church and who I am as an individual. “All are Welcome” is not just a phrase; it is a way of acting, believing, and displaying. All Means All, no exceptions. I then put on two bracelets – my Reconciling Ministries bracelet and my Anti-Bullying bracelet. The I Team’s quarterly theme for this quarter is “Do Unto Others.” I’ve now added my “Do Unto Others” pin each Sunday morning. To me all of the items I add to my outfit are more than “bling.” It is my small way of reminding myself – and those around me – who I am and what I believe.

Our being a Reconciling Congregation also reminds those around us who we are and what we believe. It is important, especially in this world of bullying and of literally pulling immigrants off the streets with no due process and either imprisoning them or sending them to places like El Salvador. It is important when words like Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion have been somehow made to sound evil rather than what they truly mean – a more level playing field for all of us, including me – probably including all of us at some point in our lives. Although I try to use the stairs as often as possible, my left knee causes a bit of a “hitch” on stairs especially going down, I’ll sometimes use the elevator. I never say “no” to senior discounts either. I’ve spent my lifetime in education, and I have seen first-hand what IEP’s, 504 Plans, ELL instruction, translators available, signs that indicate that the school loves all and welcomes all, etc. do for the health of the students, staff, and school system in general. I consistently had a “You are Safe in this Classroom” sign in my classroom as soon as they became available, and I’ve been retired for fifteen years. I could not work in an atmosphere where I could not support my students wherever they are in their life’s journey.

May is the second month of our “Do Unto Others” campaign, and we are focusing on anti-bullying. We are also moving toward Pride month. This month’s “Mission of the Month” is RECLAIM, whose mission is to increase access to mental health care for queer and trans youth so they may reclaim their lives from oppression in all its forms. I realize that not everyone understands the queer and trans community, but please believe that living into their authentic selves is crucial for survival. I am reminded of Bob Dylan’s lyric “Don’t criticize what you can’t understand” from The Times They Are A-Changin’. As we continue to follow Jesus, let us remember that we need to do unto others, educate ourselves, keep our hearts open to all, and remember **“Inclusion starts with I.”**



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
- Youth leaders also welcome!



Youth in grades 7-12 and adult drivers are invited to be part of STORM Camp, an overnight camp hosted at Holy Trinity UMC in Prior Lake. We do two things at STORM Camp: Work and Worship. During our time together, we’ll gather for morning devotions and evening chapel, and spend the days serving through yardwork, painting, building, cleaning, and growing in relationships with those we’re serving and those we’re serving alongside. Contact Lynnette to register or to sign up to help with the event.

Church Announcements...



Last Day of Kids' 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



Holy Trinity will recognize our graduates on **Sunday, June 8** at our 9:30am worship service. Graduates, parents of graduates and grandparents/loved ones of graduates: we want to celebrate with you! Please send a photo, the school or program completed, and plans for the future (even if still deciding) to Lynnette by May 25. Thank you, and congratulations! kidsandfamilies@htumc.org



United Women in Faith

United Women in Faith Gathering for May

Tuesday, May 13th at 2:00pm

-Meet in Fellowship Hall at the church-

Our main focus for this meeting will be a tour of SCA (next door in parsonage). Join us to find out all about this wonderful program! Please contact Sharon Dougherty for questions at sdsrdougherty@gmail.com or 612-280-2103.

Please bring diaper wipes on May 13th. We will be donating them to SCA.



Lakefront Bible Study

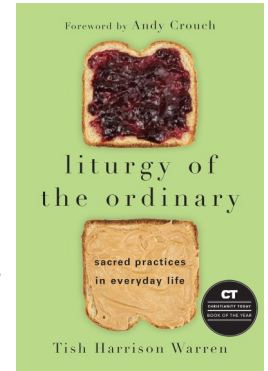
May 6 & 20

from 1:00-2:30pm

Lakefront Plaza Commons Room

The group is currently studying *Liturgy of the Ordinary* by Tish Harrison Warren

In the overlooked moments and routines of our day, we can become aware of God's presence in surprising ways. How do we embrace the sacred in the ordinary and the ordinary in the sacred? Framed around one ordinary day, this book explores daily life through the lens of liturgy, small practices, and habits that form us.



This is a non-denominational group. All are welcome! Call Barb Bollinger with questions at 612-670-1847.



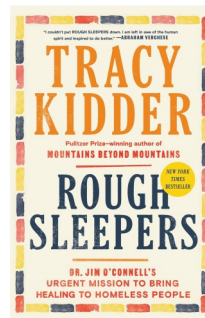
Trinity Readers

Tuesday, May 27

2:00pm Church Library

If you enjoy reading and discussing books, join us!

The book for May: *Rough Sleepers* by Tracey Kidder



In *Rough Sleepers*, Kidder tells the story of Dr. Jim O'Connell, a gifted man who invented a community of care for a city's unhoused population, including those who sleep on the streets—the "rough sleepers."





May 2025

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

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