



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!"*

July, 2025



Summertime, and the livin' is easy

Often we break from church programming and other studies during the summer, and Sunday morning worship attendance drops as well – especially this is true in Minnesota. I think this harkens back to the days of long, extreme winters and beautiful, mild summers – although this is certainly less descriptive of Minnesota in recent years than it once was. But we are still a northern state, and the land of 10,000 lakes, and so, when summer comes, we take advantage. We take vacations and weekend trips. We get outdoors while we can.

Possibly the person who feels this least is Lynnette, who is crazy busy this week with Vacation Bible School. And then in July it will be time for Storm Camp, and she will be crazy busy with that. And then, in August, there is Night to Unite.

Wait. Something happens between Storm Camp and Night to Unite. Something I am trying as best I can to block from my mind, but it keeps crawling into my consciousness. Oh yes, that's it... Lynnette is retiring! Night to Unite is not on Lynnette's "to-do" list! We will have a retirement celebration for Lynnette after worship on July 20, her final Sunday as a Holy Trinity staff member. I hope you can all be there to celebrate Lynnette, whose talent and devotion to Holy Trinity and kids' ministries has been an enormous blessing to our church. Working with Lynnette has been a great joy for me, and I'm so grateful that she will remain a beloved member of our congregation. We are presently searching for someone to fill the kids' ministries position, and we will all need to remember to respect Lynnette's boundaries (and help her to maintain those boundaries) as she transitions back from beloved staff and congregation member to beloved congregation member.

We are not quite as frantic in our activities as Lynnette is presently, but our Lakefront Bible study group also decided that we would not take a break this summer, unlike previous summers. We enjoy each other's company too much!

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Pastor Leigh continued...

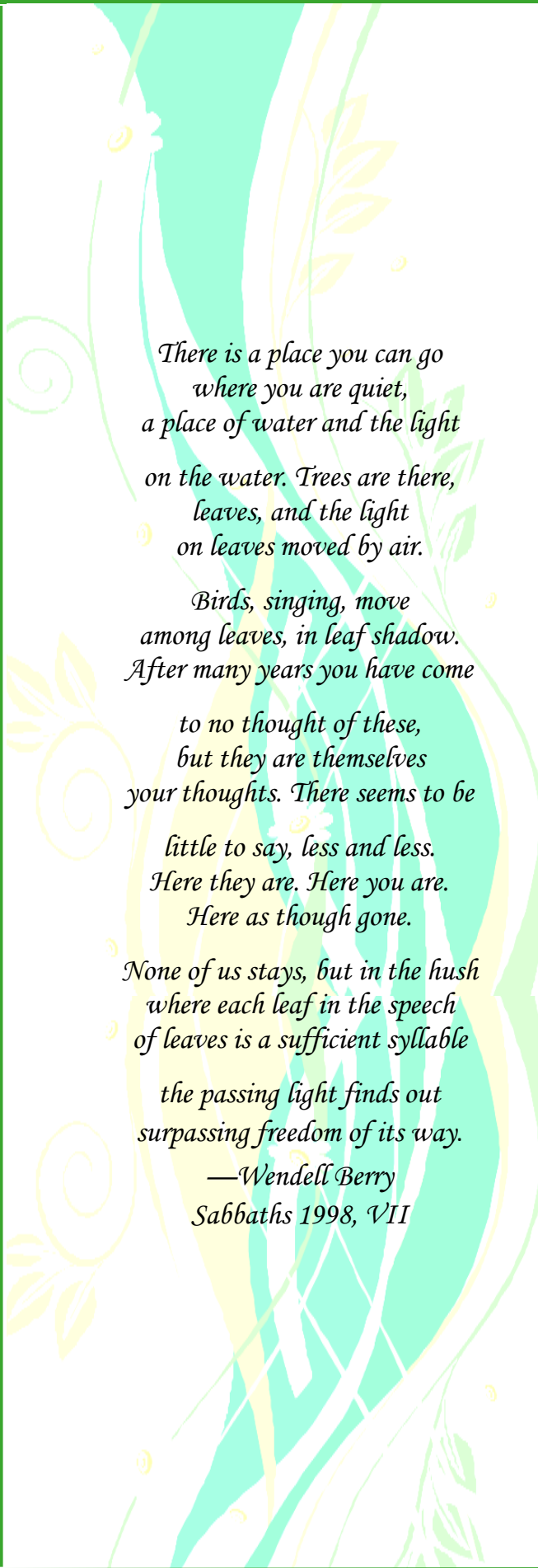
We had just finished a study on the Book of Revelation when we made the decision, and so we decided to look at something a bit lighter for the summer months. Anything is “lighter” than a study of Revelation, but we settled on a book that embraces Ordinary Time, both in the liturgical sense and in the spirit of the ease of summer. We are reading Tish Harrison Warren’s book *Liturgy of the Ordinary: Sacred Practices in Everyday Life*. As we have been reading the book together, I thought it would be good source material for a summer worship series at Holy Trinity as well.

The book looks at the spiritual nature of the routine things that we all do, every day. Just as movement is essential to improve physical health, spiritual practice is essential to grow in confidence and faith, but life can often feel overwhelming. It can seem nearly impossible to squeeze one more thing into our day. We know that spiritual practices are important, just as we know that we should get plenty of sleep, eat protein and 5 fruits and vegetables a day, exercise, clean our house, support our children’s and grandchildren’s activities, take care of our loved ones... the list could go on. And we are especially called to take better care of ourselves in times of great anxiety and challenge. This has not, after all, been a carefree summer with regard to local, national and world events.

So how do we do it? Instead of trying to incorporate new spiritual disciplines, in our summer worship series, *The Sacred in the Ordinary*, we will take a closer look at our routine, day-to-day activities, and where we can find God in those activities. Don Oram will start us off on Sunday, July 6, by looking at how we react when we lose things, and how God reacts when God loses things – using the parable of the lost sheep as our guide in scripture. We’ll look at other ordinary activities and occurrences throughout the summer, and end on August 31 with considering Sabbath and rest.

I hope that throughout this season you are able to feel a sense of Sabbath rest. And so I leave you with this poem by the great poet and farmer, Wendell Berry.

Many blessings,
Pastor Leigh



*There is a place you can go
where you are quiet,
a place of water and the light
on the water. Trees are there,
leaves, and the light
on leaves moved by air.*

*Birds, singing, move
among leaves, in leaf shadow.
After many years you have come*

*to no thought of these,
but they are themselves
your thoughts. There seems to be
little to say, less and less.
Here they are. Here you are.
Here as though gone.*

*None of us stays, but in the hush
where each leaf in the speech
of leaves is a sufficient syllable
the passing light finds out
surpassing freedom of its way.*

—Wendell Berry
Sabbaths 1998, VII

Grace: Part Three

The last two months I have been writing about offering grace (unearned blessings) to people who have affected us in the past and to our own younger selves, and about offering grace for those others around us and ourselves in this moment. Now, as I am writing my final letter for the SAIL, I want to reflect on how we offer grace to the future.

The life we are living each moment has the possibility of blessing the future. How we spend our time now influences the kind of person we will be in the future. Our lives touch and influence each other, and can inspire hope, or crush hope. Our words and actions can be life giving, life affirming, or not. What is it that brings us hope? What can we do to make sure “that which gives us hope” is there for future people?

If we are honest, we must admit that it can be hard to invest energy into the future when we just want to be left alone to do what we want. The tendency to selfishness is built into us. Choosing our own desires over what we know we “should” do pretty much describes original sin. Of course, we should take care of ourselves and enjoy life and the fruits of our labor. But if we know someone needs kindness and we withhold it, or if we see someone treated unjustly and say it is not our problem, just to save ourselves some trouble, then there are repercussions, to those people and to our future selves. When we do that, we distance ourselves from God, who cares about those people and us.

Beyond being kind to others and supporting someone who needs help, what blessings does the future need from us? I think the future needs to know what we know about Jesus, about God, about the living faith of Christianity. They need to know that grace is real, and freely given, that we are loved just as we are, and that as beloved children of God we are also called to love each other, freely and without conditions. Many of us have learned these lessons in church or Sunday school. And many of us have brought our own families to church to learn the same lessons. But there are no guarantees that what we prize now will be there for future generations. The teachings of Jesus have been downplayed or twisted by many other churches that emphasize

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righteousness according to values of control and power. Christianity, to those who have been hurt by such churches, has gotten a reputation of amplifying hate, and abusing power. This has repelled people who have not even been hurt by church, but don’t want anything to do with organizations that are like that. We, who have not experienced this false messaging, need to know that standing up for the message of a loving God, a loving Jesus, a loving body of Christ (the church) is our responsibility.

Living things do not thrive without care. A neglected garden withers; an ignored person withdraws. A community of faith is a living thing. Many caretakers are needed if we want the hope we have found here to still be alive when our children, or our neighbor’s children need it. And, when we care for our faith community out of a sense of love for what we can be, now and in the future, it becomes an honor to do that care. We care for our community by showing up, listening for the message of Jesus, and finding ways to live it in our lives. We care for our community and each other by participating in groups and events and seeking new opportunities that fit our needs. We care for our neighbors who need to know hope and a caring community by inviting them in. We care by providing the time, the money, and the energy needed to grow in spirit and in hope, and in doing so, we bless ourselves and the future.

To close, I want to share one more time my favorite Bible verse which promises me that through trust I will receive the things that I really want, the things that selfishness will never bring me. They are the words of the apostle Paul, to the church in Rome, and to us now: “May the god of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him; that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” Romans 15:13.

Lynnette Dobberpuhl

Children, Youth & Family Coordinator
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Inclusion Starts with I

I want to start this month's column with a sad, but beautiful and long overdue story. It's a story of apology, atonement, reconciliation, hope, and perhaps a road forward for the United Methodist Church to repair the tremendous harm done to members of the LGBTQ community and their families for over fifty years. In 1977 Richard Huskey was due to be ordained, but he was removed from the ministry after he came out as gay. After the recent decision of the General Conference to finally remove the harmful restrictions on the LGBTQ community, Richard has finally received his ordination. He was scheduled to be ordained at our Annual Conference this year, but he was unable to make it due to his failing health. Although we honored him in spirit, Bishop Lanette had always planned to go to him for his official ordination. By Friday his health had taken a turn for the worse, so it became imperative for the Bishop to leave as soon as possible. We prayed that she would make it on time. This is the story as told by Bishop Lanette: *On the evening of June 14, 2025, in a sacred and historic moment of grace and justice, The United Methodist Church ordained Rev. Dr. Richard Huskey as an elder in full connection. Nearly fifty years after being removed from the ordination process for being gay, we gathered at the bedside of Richard Huskey, who was joyfully reinstated as a provisional member, ordained as elder in full connection, and received into full membership into the Minnesota Annual Conference. . . In the presence of a small circle including his bishop, clergy, laity, and faithful witnesses, we honored a call that never ceased and a faithfulness that never failed. . . Though primarily communicating through eye contact and limited verbal affirmations, Rick laughed in joy during his ordination vows and spoke the words, "hallelujah" and "amen . . ." We give thanks for Rev. Dr. Richard Huskey—his faith, his perseverance, and his prophetic witness—and we rejoice that he is now fully and forever among the elders of the Church. Rev. Dr. Richard Huskey died June 15, 2025, shortly after 5 p.m. Eastern Time.*

This year's theme was *Created to Love Boldly*. We were consistently reminded to Love Boldly, Serve Joyfully, and Lead Courageously. We celebrated God's overriding, never ending, reckless love.

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That is true, and this is important, but the only way that the United Methodist Church can continue to build trust with the community it harmed for decades is to openly admit past harms and do all that we can to prevent future harms. The ordination of Richard Huskey was one step on that journey. Let us hope to continue to move forward in love and grace.

With that in mind the I Team will be transitioning into our next quarterly emphasis for 2025 – *Let's Think Differently* (July-September). We plan to focus on *Disabilities* in July, *Memory Loss* in August, and *Neurodiversity* in September. Each month we will also have a related activity either during or after church. July is Disabilities Pride Month, celebrating the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) on July 26, 1990.

Sunday, July 27 we will host Disability Sunday. This will be a time of both education and evaluation. We will be exploring wheelchair accessibility (with free wheelchair rides) as well as vision and hearing disabilities. We'll also share how disabilities are handled in the school system via Individual Education Plans (IEP) and 504 plans. Our goal is to come up with ideas of how Holy Trinity can be more accessible and welcoming to all! Many of us now are part of the **TAB** community – **Temporarily Able Bodied** – but we know how easily that can change. I hope you can join us on the 27th! Remember, **Inclusion starts with I.**



Mission Corner...

July Mission of the Month



Each fall, the CAP Agency provides students in need with a new backpack filled with school supplies to help them thrive. This community project is called **PROJECT STUDENT SUCCESS**. It's open to current CAP clients living in Scott, Carver, and Dakota Counties with children in school.

Donations of new supplies & new backpacks are needed by no later than July 31. Supplies can be placed by the Mission display in the Narthex. Monetary donations are also accepted.

NEW school supplies most often requested:

- Backpacks
- Notebooks and Folders
- Glue and Glue-Sticks
- #2 Pencils and Mechanical Pencils
- Red, Blue and Black Pens
- Crayons and Markers
- Dry Erase Markers
- Highlighters
- Sharpies
- Erasers
- Index Cards
- Posted Notes
- Rulers
- Scissors
- Calculators
- Box of Tissues



Thank you for donating
\$902.76 to RECLAIM during
the month of May.

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.

Pride Bingo and Pizza Night was a HUGE Success!
Thank you to everyone who helped with this event
and to everyone who came!
We hope to do it again next year!



Church Announcements...



STORM is a day camp of youth and adults who can help do some work around your home. The kind of work they do includes painting, yard work, hauling yard debris, cleaning, and minor construction. STORM does the work for free and their staff will work with you regarding needed materials for the project. A staff member will contact you to set up a time to check out the job before camp starts and will work with you to get on the schedule for a whole or partial day of work. STORM will be in Prior Lake July 14-16. Please call/text or email STORM **by July 6** if you have a potential job for them.

Call/Text: (612) 562-6161

Email: STORMpriorlake@gmail.com

This is our fifth and final year of hosting STORM Camp at Holy Trinity July 13-17, and there is still need for volunteers from our congregation to provide hungry youth with snacks and meals. We will gladly take donations of cookies, bars, chips, etc, but please sign up with Lynnette so we know what to expect! Also, we provide meals twice a day, and while we have amazing STORM staff leaders in the kitchen, they need volunteers to help serve and light prep and cleanup. Our contribution help the campers feel like their presence matters. Help us grow some goodness! See Lynnette for more info.



Children, Youth & Family Coordinator

Our beloved CYF Coordinator Lynnette is retiring in July, so we are looking for someone to fill her CYF Coordinator position here at Holy Trinity. If you, or someone you know, may be interested in applying, please contact Pastor Leigh or the church office for more information. You can also find the job posting and apply on indeed here:

[https://www.indeed.com/viewjob?](https://www.indeed.com/viewjob?jk=ee046cfc3207b622&from=shareddesktop_copy)

[jk=ee046cfc3207b622&from=shareddesktop_copy](https://www.indeed.com/viewjob?jk=ee046cfc3207b622&from=shareddesktop_copy)



United
Women
in Faith

United Women in Faith Summer Months' Activities

We will gather for LUNCH only during the summer months – these will be informal lunches – a fellowship gathering of friends!
All women are welcome & invited.

Tuesday, July 8

11:30am at Crooked Pint Ale House

14120 State Hwy 13 in Savage

Lunch will be at your own expense.

August will be a picnic –

Date, time & location to be announced!

Only requirement is that a reservation is needed –

please contact Sharon Dougherty

in advance to be added to the list.

612-280-2103 or sdsrdougherty@gmail.com



June's lunch was at Slate North, the restaurant at the Wilds Golf Club in Prior Lake. Enjoying a meal together were Nancy Iverson, Kaye Erbes, Sandy Feldhake, Sharon Dougherty, Sara Modders, Joanne Henry, and Kay Petterson.

Strong Missions Fundraiser



We would love help spreading the word about our upcoming fundraiser. We will once again be **reserving parking spots at the church during Lakefront Music Fest, July 11 & 12.**

Here is the link to reserve a spot that you can help circulate: <https://bit.ly/LMF2025ParkingHTUMC>

Strong and Courageous. Joshua 1:9

Church Announcements...



Lakefront Bible Study

July 1 & 15

from 1:00-2:30pm

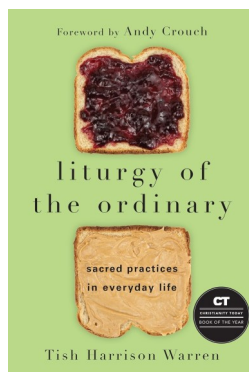
Lakefront Plaza Commons Room

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.*

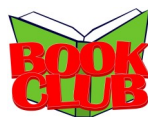


This is a non-denominational group.
All are welcome! Call Barb Bollinger
with questions at 612-670-1847.

Trinity Readers

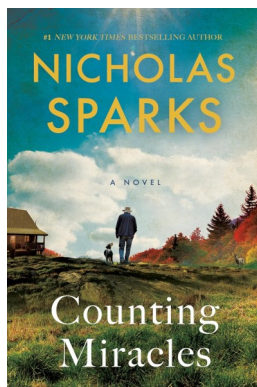
Tuesday, July 29

2:00pm Church Library



If you enjoy reading and discussing books, join us!

The book for July: **Counting Miracles**
by Nicholas Sparks



*Counting Miracles is an
emotional, powerful novel about
wondering if we can change—or
even make our peace with—the
path we've taken. The setting is
postcard perfect. The characters
are immensely likable, and as
their fates orbit closer together,
none of them is expecting a
miracle . . . but that may be
exactly what is about to alter
their futures forever.*



Tomorrow Will Be Different Book Study

Every other Thursday in July

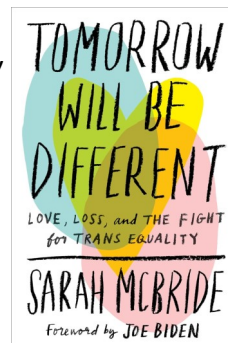
(July 3, 17 & 31)

6:30-7:30pm

Join us in July to discuss the book

Tomorrow Will Be Different by Sarah McBride.

Informative, heartbreaking, and
profoundly empowering, *Tomorrow
Will Be Different* is McBride's story
of love and loss and a powerful
entry point into the LGBTQ
community's battle for equal rights
and what it means to be openly
transgender. From issues like
bathroom access to health care to
gender in America, McBride weaves the important
political and cultural milestones into a personal
journey that will open hearts and change minds.



Feel free to join us even if you can't make it to every
session. Contact the church office with questions.



Please join us to celebrate our beloved CYF
Coordinator Lynnette's retirement from Holy Trinity
on **Sunday, July 20** after worship. In addition, if you
would like to contribute to a retirement gift for
Lynnette, please send donations to the church office
(clearly labeled) by **Monday, July 14**.

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 3-July 31 (every other Thurs.)	<i>Tomorrow Will Be Different</i> Book Study
July 11-12	Lakefront Music Fest
July 13-17	STORM Camp
July 20	Lynnette Retirement Party
August 5	Night to Unite
September 7	Rally Sunday



July 2025

Holy Trinity UMC

(952) 447-2990

office@htumc.org

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
		1  1-2:30pm Lakefront Bible Study 4-6 Hope Cafe 7pm CoDA at the parsonage	2	3 11am Care Team Meeting 6pm Veterans AA at the parsonage 6:30-7:30pm Book Study	4 	5
6 9:30am Worship/ Live-Stream	7 4-6pm Hope Cafe 7pm Al-Anon at the parsonage	8  United Women in Faith 11:30am UWfaith Lunch @ Crooked Pint in Savage 4-6 Hope Cafe 7pm CoDA at the parsonage	9	10 6pm Veterans AA at the parsonage	11 <div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> Lakefront Music Fest Parking </div> 	12
13 9:30am Worship/ Live-Stream	14	15 1-3:15pm Quilters STORM CAMP	16	17 6pm Veterans AA at the parsonage 6:30-7:30pm Book Study	18	19
20 9:30am Worship/ Live-Stream 10:30am Lynnette Retirement Party 	21 4-6 Hope Cafe 7pm Al-Anon at the parsonage	22 4-6 Hope Cafe 7pm CoDA at the parsonage	23	24 6pm Veterans AA at the parsonage	25	26
27 9:30am Worship/ Live-Stream 	28 6:30pm Core Team Meeting 4-6pm Hope Cafe 7pm Al-Anon at the parsonage	29  BOOK CLUB 2:00pm Trinity Readers 4-6 Hope Cafe 7pm CoDA at the parsonage	30	31 6pm Veterans AA at the parsonage 6:30-7:30pm Book Study		

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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