



## 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!"*

### September, 2025



### *Connecting the Pieces, Together*

Fall, from a creation standpoint, is a season of endings – the end of the growing season and the time for harvest, the cooling down before the dormancy of winter, and the shortening of days. Fall, from a cultural standpoint, is a season of beginnings – the beginning of school, the return to work routine and focus, and the beginning of a new program year in churches. In one television commercial for school supplies the children sing, "Back to life, back to reality," as they head for the first day of the school year.

If "back to reality" sounds like a bit of a bummer, remember that a focus on reality is essential for learning, growth, and transformation. Fall, the season of endings and beginnings, is also the season of change and transformation. We see it in the changing colors of nature. In many ways, we mark the seasons of our lives by the changes that come with the season of fall.

Fall is a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with our church, and to align our actions with our desires and our values. True connection isn't something we do in name only, and it isn't something we do occasionally or without effort. True connection requires an intentional commitment to God and to the church: A commitment to be present within the community by attending worship when possible; a commitment to grow in faith by attending Sunday School, an adult study, a UWF meeting, or a church event; a commitment to deepen your relationship with God through prayer and meditation; a commitment to live your faith through service.

This is your invitation to reconnect! Rally Day is Sunday, September 7, and together we will renew our commitment to connection with God and with one another in church.

September 7 we will also begin a new worship series called *Questions of Faith*. In this series we will consider some of our

*Continued on next page...*

#### In this Issue

Pastor Leigh	1-2
Church Announcements	2-3
Mission Corner	4
Inclusion Starts with I	5
Summer Recap	6
September 2025 Calendar	7

most common questions of faith. Rev. Ellie Barrington, pastor of another church called Trinity in Canada, once said these words, “Doubt AND faith, questioning AND believing. May our children learn that these pairs are complementary – not opposites.” Examining our faith is an act of faith in itself, a holy commitment.

What does the Bible say about our most existential questions? How do we understand the will of God? There are so many questions. In the gospels Jesus rarely answers a question directly, but rather challenges us to think for ourselves. He doesn’t supply us with all the answers – we are instead allowed plenty of room for doubt, discussion, imagining, examination, embracing mystery, and wrestling with difficult questions. Jesus trusts us to have a faith resilient enough to thrive on the very process of lively questioning. Each week in this fall worship series we will consider common questions of faith, including:

- Will God never give us more than we can handle?
- What does the Bible really say about hell? What does it really say about heaven?
- Does everything happen for a reason? Why do bad things happen to good people?
- Does God forgive everything? How do I forgive someone else... and myself?
- Does God help those who help themselves?
- Can I love the sinner but hate the sin?
- If Christianity is true, are other faiths not true?
- Why do my prayers go unanswered?
- If God has a will for my life, why can’t I see it?
- Does God’s love always prevail in the end?

Ours is not a simple, shallow faith of settling for yes or no answers. Ours is a complex, deep faith of growing in knowledge and understanding. We do this in connection with God and with one another.

See you on Rally Day!

~ Pastor Leigh

## **Toy Corner Succession**

Hello Holy Trinity congregants,

We are Susie Williams and Katie Vander Weit—the Co-Coordiators of The Toy Corner. The Toy Corner is a 501c3 non-profit organization that has been in operation since 2014. We offer free toys to Scott County families who are experiencing financial hardship. The Toy Corner is currently located in the lower level of the church parsonage. This is our third location and by far, our favorite.

But alas, the sunshine and warm waters of Florida are calling. Susie and her husband will soon become snowbirds and fly south for the winters. So, we will be stepping down as Co-Coordiators at the end of 2026. It is our fondest wish that The Toy Corner will continue for many years to come. And that is why we are reaching out to you.

If taking over a well-run non-profit sounds interesting, please reach out to us. We'll answer any questions you have. If you'd like to see The Toy Corner in action, please stop by for a visit. We are open Mondays and Tuesdays, 3-6. For more information, you can go to our website at <http://www.thetoycorner.org>. You can reach us by email as well: [kvanderweit@cs.com](mailto:kvanderweit@cs.com).

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank you all. We have felt very welcome here. Holy Trinity United Methodist Church is truly a special place.

Susie Williams and Katie Vander Weit



To My Holy Trinity Family,

THANK YOU SO MUCH for your generosity to me as I stepped out of the role of coordinating Kids’ Ministry. Your kind words and gifts have affected me deeply. I look forward to continuing with you in community in different ways, and join you in prayer, action and hope for the continuation of our place in the Body of Christ.

Love, Lynnette

## Church Announcements...



Make plans to join us on **Rally Sunday, September 7!** We will return to our fall programming with Kids' Church and a new sermon series, and as is tradition, warm, fresh cinnamon rolls from our Bread Oven Ministry Team will be served after worship!



United  
Women  
in Faith

### September United Women in Faith Gathering

**Tuesday, September 9<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:sdsrdougherty@gmail.com) or 612-280-2103.

### Lakefront Bible Study

**September 2 & 16**

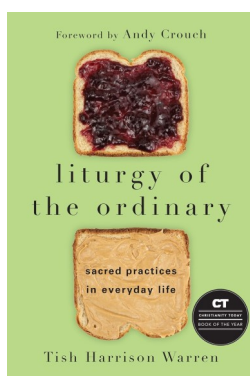
**from 1:00-2:30pm**

**Lakefront Plaza Commons Room**

### Bible Study



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



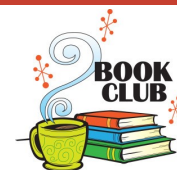
*In the overlooked moments  
and routines of our day,  
we can become aware of God's  
presence in surprising ways.*

*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.  
Call Barb Bollinger with questions at 612-670-1847.

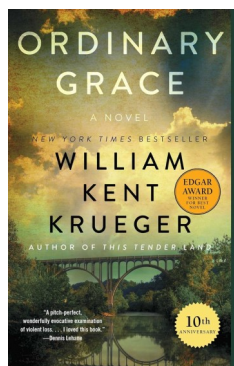
**ALL ARE WELCOME! JOIN ANYTIME!**

**Trinity Readers**  
**Tuesday, September 30**  
**2:00pm Church Library**



If you enjoy reading and discussing books, join us!

**The book for September: *Ordinary Grace*  
by William Kent Krueger**



*A young boy in 1961 Minnesota  
grapples with the concept of  
death as it visits his family in  
various forms, forcing him to  
confront the complexities of life  
and the enduring grace of God.*

### Baked Goods Needed



Holy Trinity is in need of ongoing contributions of baked goods (either store bought or homemade) for our weekly Hope Cafe. We put them in the freezer and then pull them out as needed. If you can help, please drop off baked goods to the church kitchen and clearly label it for Hope Cafe.



As of 8/27/25,  
317 pounds of produce  
have been donated to  
the CAP agency food  
shelf.

Thank you to our gardeners (and those donating from their personal gardens) for your dedication to this important ministry.





## September 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 kids go without a bed—or even a pillow—to sleep on. These children end up sleeping on couches, blankets, and even floors.

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 a child's proper physical, emotional, and mental development.

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 (see below)

### Sleep In Heavenly Peace Bed Building Event Saturday, September 13 8:30-10:45am

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. A few hours of your time will mean the world to a child sleeping in an unfavorable condition.

Sign up at church if you'd like to participate!



Thank you for donating \$883  
as well as lots of backpacks and  
school supplies to CAP Agency's  
Project Student Success during  
the month of July.



### UWFaith Goes School Supply Shopping!

Holy Trinity's  
United Women  
in Faith  
purchased  
backpacks and  
school supplies  
for the July  
Mission of the  
Month – CAP's  
Project Student  
Success School  
Supply Drive.



Happy shoppers were Sandy Feldhake, Nancy Iverson and Sharon Dougherty (taking the photo!).

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

Ah September! It always feels like the beginning of everything, much more so than New Year's Day, at least to me. This is when we restart our church year. Rally Sunday is on September 7th. The choir and bell choir are starting up again, Kid's Church is starting up again, and we continue our ongoing programs like the Hope Café on Mondays and Tuesdays from 4-6 pm and the harvesting of the garden as more and more crops are coming in.

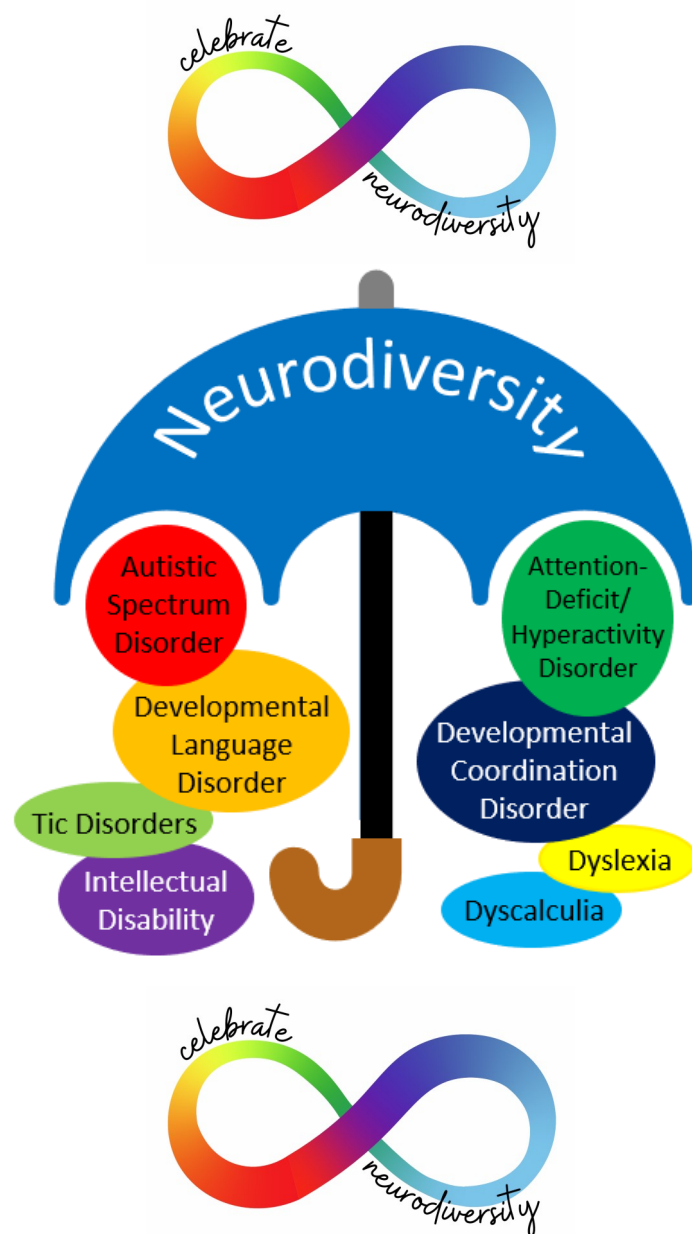
Of course, the start of school is the first thing that most people think of when the calendar rolls around to September. I've always said that I've lived my life in school years. In my seventy-five years on this planet, I've only spent eight years not in school. I spent thirty-six years as a full-time teacher and the last fourteen as a substitute teacher. I'm planning on at least one more year of subbing, either because I'm insane or because I love teaching – or a combination of both.

This brings me to the I Team's specific focus for September as the final part of the "Let's Think Differently" quarterly emphasis: Neurodiversity. The Harvard Medical School describes neurodiversity as "the idea that people experience and interact with the world around them in many different ways; there is no one 'right' way of thinking, learning, and behaving, and differences are not viewed as deficits. The word neurodiversity refers to the diversity of all people, but it is often used in the context of autism spectrum disorder (ASD), as well as other neurological or developmental conditions such as ADHD or learning disabilities." Teachers in the school system, especially those in the special education department, are trained to work with neurodiverse students. For many students their neurodiversity is discovered when they are in school. Understanding neurodiversity is important for all of us. It will help us be less judgmental about others, and it will help also all of us understand the necessity of programs that are designed to help ALL students.

We will keep the display up on Special Education services that is located toward the back of the Fellowship Hall throughout the month of September. It is very informative and may especially help parents and grandparents of students who are in special

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education programs or who are recommended for special education assessment. On **Sunday, September 21**, we will have guest speakers to give us even more in depth information on neurodiversity. A very important aspect for all of us to understand is that differences in brain function are natural variations in the human population, rather than deficits that need to be "fixed." The neurodiverse community aims to reduce stigma, foster inclusivity, and create environments that support and accommodate neurodivergent individuals. We at Holy Trinity UMC can and should be a safe, inclusive environment for all. Learning about neurodiversity is an important step toward that goal. Remember, **Inclusion starts with I.**





**Summer Recap...**

**Camp Firelight VBS June 2025**



**STORM Camp July 2025**



**Lynnette Retirement Party —July 20, 2025**



**Night to Unite—August 5, 2025**



**UWFaith Summer Picnic—August 12, 2025**







# September 2025

Holy Trinity UMC

(952) 447-2990

office@htumc.org

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b>  <b>HAPPY Labor Day</b> 7pm Al-Anon at the parsonage	<b>2</b> Bible Study  <b>1-2:30pm Lakefront Bible Study</b> 4-6 Hope Cafe 7pm CoDA at the parsonage	<b>3</b> 4pm Bells Rehearsal 7pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>4</b> 11am Care Team Meeting 6pm Veterans AA at the parsonage	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> 9:30am Worship/ Live-Stream  <b>RALLY DAY</b>	<b>8</b> 4-6pm Hope Cafe 7pm Al-Anon at the parsonage	<b>9</b>  United Women in Faith <b>2:00pm UWF (Fellowship Hall)</b> 4-6 Hope Cafe 7pm CoDA at the parsonage	<b>10</b> 4pm Bells Rehearsal 7pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>11</b> 6pm Veterans AA at the parsonage	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>  <b>SHIP</b> 8:30am Bed Building Event
<b>14</b> 9:30am Worship/ Live-Stream <b>10:30am I-Team</b> <b>4-5:30pm 8th/9th Confirmation</b> <b>5:30-7pm Sunday Funday (7th-12th)</b>	<b>15</b> 4-6 Hope Cafe <b>6:30pm Core Team Meeting</b> 7pm Al-Anon at the parsonage	<b>16</b> 1-3:15pm Quilters Bible Study  <b>1-2:30pm Lakefront Bible Study</b> 4-6 Hope Cafe 7pm CoDA at the parsonage	<b>17</b> 4pm Bells Rehearsal 7pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>18</b> 6pm Veterans AA at the parsonage	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> 9:30am Worship/ Live-Stream  Embrace Neurodiversity	<b>22</b> 4-6 Hope Cafe 7pm Al-Anon at the parsonage	<b>23</b> 4-6 Hope Cafe 7pm CoDA at the parsonage	<b>24</b> 4pm Bells Rehearsal 7pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>25</b> 6pm Veterans AA at the parsonage	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 9:30am Worship/ Live-Stream	<b>29</b> 4-6pm Hope Cafe 7pm Al-Anon at the parsonage	<b>30</b>  <b>BOOK CLUB</b> <b>2:00pm Trinity Readers</b> 4-6 Hope Cafe 7pm CoDA at the parsonage				

## *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](mailto:pastor@htumc.org)

**Church Admin:** Tina Chant  
(952) 447-2990 [office@htumc.org](mailto:office@htumc.org)

**Church website:** [www.htumc.org](http://www.htumc.org)



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