



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!"*

February, 2026

A note for the times we live in

You Are Not Alone



Our faith teaches us that every human being is created in the image of God and worthy of dignity, safety, justice, and love. Scripture calls us again and again to care for the stranger, to protect the vulnerable, and to stand with those who are afraid. This moment asks us to remember who we are and whose we are.

So many people in our congregation and community have been living with heightened fear and uncertainty because of the immigration enforcement actions taking place around us. Some are worried for family members, coworkers, and neighbors. Others carry the weight of anxiety, anger, grief, or confusion. And the most vulnerable among us are truly living in terror. Between the alarming news stories and videos, the endless adaptation required in accomplishing our mission work, and the ever-increasing need of those who are truly trapped inside their homes – the emotional toll is exhausting. As your pastor, I want you to hear this clearly: you are not alone.

To all who are living with fear and anxiety: this church stands with you. Your lives matter. Your stories matter. Your presence among us is a blessing. If you need prayer, practical support, or just someone to listen, please reach out. Together, we will do our best to walk with you.

To those who are wondering how to respond: Check in on your neighbors. Read and listen to a variety of news sources. Learn about the realities facing immigrant families in our community. Come to Hope Café and learn more about our efforts to feed families in need in this turbulent time. Pray – not only with your words, but with your kindness and loving actions.

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Pastor Leigh continued and Church Announcements...

As a Christian, United Methodist, and Reconciling congregation, at Holy Trinity UMC we are and will remain committed to our values of inclusion, care, and hope. Our church building, our ministries, and our hearts will reflect God's immeasurable love for all of God's people. Remember that love is stronger than fear. May God guide us in courage, wisdom, and compassion as we seek to be faithful in this time. I am with you in hope and in prayer.

Pastor Leigh

Lenten Soup Suppers and Movie Study



Please join us this Lent for a simple soup supper followed by a movie study on *The Way*.

Wednesdays February 25-March 25
Soup Supper: 5:15-6:00PM
Movie Study: 6:00-7:00PM

An American father travels to France to retrieve the body of his estranged son, who died while attempting the pilgrimage to Spain's Santiago de Compostela. He resolves to take the journey himself, in an effort to understand both himself and his son. *The Way* is a powerful and inspirational story about family, friends, and the challenges we face while navigating this ever-changing and complicated world.

Each week we will watch a portion of the movie followed by time for discussion.



United Women in Faith
February Gathering

Tuesday, February 10 at 2:00pm
Music Room by Church Office

Carol Ottoson will speak to us about **IMMIGRATION & FEDERAL ICE** and share her current experiences.

Please come to understand what is occurring now in our area and bring your questions.

All women are invited.

Please contact Sandy Feldhake at 952-484-7868 for questions.



Join us on Ash Wednesday, February 18 for a soup supper at 5:15pm followed by worship at 6:00pm.

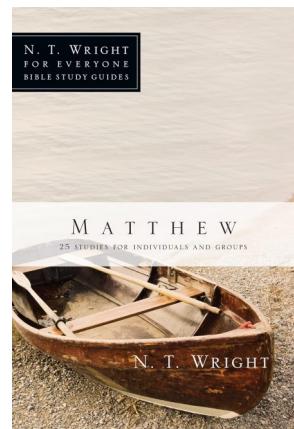
Lakefront Bible Study

February 17 (no study Feb. 3)
from 1:00-2:30pm

Lakefront Plaza Commons Room



Our Lakefront Bible Study is currently studying the Gospel of Matthew, using N.T. Wright's Matthew study guide. We step into Matthew's gospel and experience the life and message of Jesus together in a new and personal way, uncovering timeless truths, practical wisdom, and hope that transforms.



This study is for everyone - beginners and those who have studied for years. Come and join our meaningful and encouraging Lakefront Bible study.

We've saved you a seat at the table!

This is a non-denominational group.

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

2025 Year-End Giving Statements



2025 Giving Statements were sent on 1/20/26 (either through email or regular mail.)

Please contact the church office if you have any questions.



Trinity Readers
Tuesday, February 24
2:00pm Church Library

If you enjoy reading and discussing books, join us! The book for February: TBD
Contact Sandy with questions (sfeldha1@msn.com).

Mission Corner...

January-March 2026 Mission Focus -Food Insecurity-



Holy Trinity has started quarterly missions to coordinate with the quarterly I-Team focus, rather than having separate missions each month. The mission focus for the first quarter (January-March) is **Food Insecurity** which coordinates with the I-Team focus of *Love Your Neighbor*. **We will be collecting both perishable and nonperishable food donations for Hope Pantry as well as monetary donations for the CAP Agency's Food Shelf and for R.O.C.K.** The CAP agency is able to pool monetary donations so they can buy food items in bulk at a lower unit cost. For each \$1 donated, they are able to purchase approximately \$6 worth of food. Rock serves children at all schools in the Prior Lake area and now at Kenwood Middle School in Lakeville. Rock provides Power Packs, which are sent home with students in backpacks that include: 2 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 2 snacks, a fruit and a vegetable. They offer their Power Pack Program to all families who feel they could benefit from these food items.

Here are some most needed items for Hope Pantry, but all donations are welcome.

Ramen	Cooking oil
Spaghetti sauce	Sugar
Pasta	Masa Flour
Dried white or red beans	Flour
White rice	Milk
Peanut butter	Eggs
Jelly	Chicken
Fruit packs	Hamburger
Pancake mix	Butter
Syrup	Fresh Produce
Bread (white sandwich and medium size tortillas)	
Any boxed meals that are easy to prepare (hamburger helper and the like)	
Cereal (Honey Nut Cheerios or the like)	

Thank you for donating **\$679** to the Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota during the month of December. Thank you also for donating **\$2917** to our Christmas offering.



REMINDER NEW FOR 2026

Starting in 2026, we are no longer passing the wicker baskets on Sunday mornings. If you would like to donate to the quarterly mission, please clearly mark this on your offering and place it in the regular offering plate. Cash can be placed in a pew envelope and labeled for mission. Thank you!



Minnesota Reconciling Congregations Invites You to be Part of our Winter Virtual Learning Event: "Gender Liberation is For Everyone: A Path Toward Stronger Allyship with LGBTQ+ Congregants"

This virtual event will take place on Thursday, **February 26 from 7:00-8:30PM** with Neak Loucks & Charlie Curtis, who are members at First UMC of St. Cloud Region.

Just as Jesus spoke on breaking down barriers between the center and the margins of society, Neak and Charlie will approach discussions of trans experiences (e.g., gender dysphoria, nonbinary gender identity), to break down "otherness" that is often a part of even well-meaning perceptions of trans experience. We aim to cultivate allyship that more effectively translates into more integrated congregational communities. The Zoom link will be sent to registrants a few days prior to February 26.

The registration link is tsu.me/nhdwyw5.

Also -- SAVE THE DATE!!!
For the Minnesota Reconciling Congregation Spring Gathering
Saturday, April 18 from 11:30am - 2:30pm
Holy Trinity United Methodist Church

Inclusion Starts with I by Carol Ottoson...

My favorite Bible verse of all time is Matthew 22:37-39 “*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.”* In fact, we are now in the middle of the I Team’s *Love Your Neighbor* campaign. Now is the time to love our neighbors more than ever, especially after the travesties and tragedies of January.

This, of course, leads to the question, “Who are our neighbors?” I will go back to Jesus’ words in Matthew 25:40, “Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.” Our neighbors are immigrants; they are members of the LGBTQ+ community; they are people of every color, of every background, and of every socio-economic status.

Now more than ever, we need to step up for our neighbors in any way that we can. For some of us it is volunteering, for others it is participating in resistance, for yet others it is contributing money to good causes. To ignore what is currently happening to our neighbors, especially our immigrant and BIPOC neighbors, is not an option. The fear is real, and the stakes are high. I have a friend who has an adopted Korean daughter who is now in her late thirties. Her daughter lives in constant fear that she will be targeted when she is out in the community, even though she’s been an American citizen since she was an infant.

I have another friend who is an English teacher at Shakopee High School. Toward the end of January, she described the morning two senior girls who walked into her room, one was shaking. Why? ICE stopped her on her way to school to ask for her passport, not her driver’s license. She wasn’t speeding, she didn’t have a light out, BUT she’s brown and they asked her where she was born! This is horrendous! A 17-year-old girl who was stopped on her way to school because of the color of her skin. A 17-year-old girl who was expected to be driving with a passport. A 17-year-old girl who was terrified that she was going to be taken away for doing absolutely nothing wrong. What if she were your daughter?

(continued above...)

My heart cries every time I think about what is happening to our children. Some are frightened for themselves or members of their family; others are frightened for their friends. Some are so angry and frustrated that they’re not sure how to feel except extremely helpless and hopeless. Kids and toddlers being sent to detention centers in Texas is a reality; children being separated from their parents at a traffic stop is a reality; children coming home to empty houses because their parents have been deported is a reality, even in our own community.

We know that many families in Scott County are too afraid to leave their homes, and they are running out of food to feed their families. I personally know a teacher who delivers food and supplies to families of her students nearly every day after school on her own time, even though she has a family of her own. We’ve had social workers, nurses, county employees, teachers, and others coming to the Hope Café and Pantry to deliver food to people who are afraid to leave their homes. We are trying to do all that we can to reach other families who need food and supplies. This should not be happening in our country, but it is! As followers of Christ it is our duty – no, it is our mandate – to do what we can to help our neighbors.

I had a conversation with an immigrant shortly after the death of Alex Pretti. He had seen the outpouring of thousands of people in support of their neighbors on January 23rd, and he had seen what had happened to Renae Good less than three weeks earlier. He is afraid for himself and for his family, even though he is here legally. In tears he told me that he couldn’t believe that people would literally risk their lives to help him and others like him. He almost felt guilty about it. I told him that we are called by Jesus to love our neighbors and to do what we can to show that love. John Wesley said it beautifully, “Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can.” Remember, Inclusion starts with I.



Matthew 22:39
“And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”



February 2026

Holy Trinity UMC

(952) 447-2990

office@htumc.org

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
1 9:30am Worship/ Live-Stream	2 2-6pm Hope Café & Pantry 7pm Al-Anon in fellowship hall	3 2-6pm Hope Café & Pantry 7pm CoDA at the parsonage	4 4pm Bells Rehearsal 7pm Choir Rehearsal	5 6pm Veterans AA at the parsonage	6	7
8 9:30am Worship/ Live-Stream 10:30am Memory Loss Group Meeting 4-5:30pm 8th/9th Confirmation @ Holy Trinity	9 2-6pm Hope Café & Pantry 7pm Al-Anon in fellowship hall	10 United Women in Faith 2:00pm UWFaith 2-6pm Hope Café & Pantry 7pm CoDA at the parsonage	11 4pm Bells Rehearsal 7pm Choir Rehearsal	12 6pm Veterans AA at the parsonage	13	14
15 9:30am Worship/ Live-Stream	16 2-6pm Hope Café & Pantry 6:30pm Core Team Meeting 7pm Al-Anon in fellowship hall	17 10am-1pm Quilters 1-2:30pm Lakefront Bible Study 2-6pm Hope Café & Pantry 7pm CoDA at the parsonage	18 4pm Bells Rehearsal 5:15pm Soup Supper 6:00pm Worship 7pm Choir Rehearsal	19 6pm Veterans AA at the parsonage	20	21
22 9:30am Worship/ Live-Stream	23 2-6pm Hope Café & Pantry 7pm Al-Anon in fellowship hall	24 2:00pm Trinity Readers 2-6pm Hope Café & Pantry 7pm CoDA at the parsonage	25 Soup Supper 4pm Bells Rehearsal 5:15pm Soup Supper 6:00pm Movie Study 7pm Choir Rehearsal	26 6pm Veterans AA at the parsonage 7-8:30 MRC Virtual Event	27	28

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

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

Church website: www.htumc.org



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