



**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!"*

**January, 2026**



## ***Joy and Celebration***

Hello, dear Holy Trinity family. In this joyous and challenging season, I have found myself thanking God again and again for the blessing of serving this congregation. I am so grateful to be in ministry with you all at Holy Trinity. And so I offer you this prayer by one of my favorite pastor/poets, Rev. Sarah Are Speed. It is called Joy and Celebration. As the new year enters, together we will light the candles and rejoice.

You are a blessing.

If you hear nothing else, if the wind howls,  
if your brain runs amok,  
if rebuttals and denials line up like little toy soldiers,  
then hear this—

you are a blessing.

I knew it the first moment I met you / heard your name /  
learned there are 7 billion of us on this planet.

I knew it in my bones,  
the way my feet know the way home.

You are a blessing.

For our creating God  
breathed life into your being.  
And there is simply no way that,  
along with that life,  
some of God's goodness  
didn't slip right in.

So tell the rebuttals to rest.

Tell the toy soldiers to find another hill,  
because this one is reserved for joy and celebration.

You are a blessing.

Breathe it in.

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## Mission Corner...

### January-March 2026 Mission Focus -Food Insecurity-



**NEW** in 2026, Holy Trinity will be starting quarterly missions to coordinate with the quarterly I-Team focus, rather than having separate missions each month. This will help streamline our mission giving and create a bigger impact while keeping things simpler for our members. The mission focus for January-March 2026 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 any donations are welcome.

Eggs	Milk (1% or 2%)
Chicken	Ramen
Jam/jelly	Tortillas
Pancake mix	Maple syrup
Spaghetti & spaghetti sauce	Cooking oil
White Rice	Dried beans
Ketchup	Salsa
Salt & pepper	Ground coffee
Canned diced tomatoes	Tomato paste
Toilet paper	Can openers

Thank you for donating **\$748** to the Toy Corner during the month of November as well as lot of fabulous toys! And thank you to Todd and Kelly Loose for coordinating the toy drive and shopping for toys!



### NEW FOR 2026

Starting in January, we will no longer be 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!



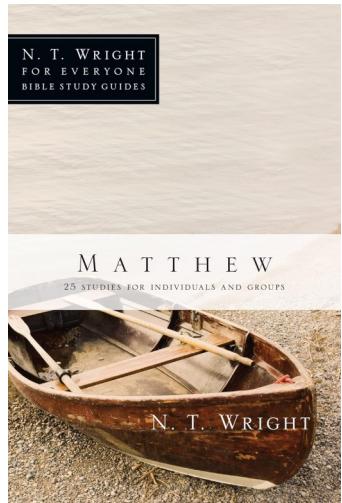
Our United Women in Faith hosted a Holiday Christmas Luncheon that was well attended on a wintry Minnesota day! The lunch committee served a delicious lunch. Our program consisted of Connie Scott and Patrick Rasmussen, former members of Holy Trinity - Connie is working towards becoming a United Methodist Deaconess and shared an overview of the program. Patrick sang and played beautiful holiday music. It was a lovely afternoon!

## Church Announcements...

### Lakefront Bible Study

January 6 & 20  
from 1:00-2:30pm

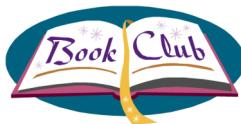
Lakefront Plaza Commons Room



Beginning in January, our Lakefront Bible Study will begin a study of the Gospel of Matthew that will take us into June, using N.T. Wright's Matthew study guide. We'll 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.



**Trinity Readers**  
Tuesday, January 27  
2:00pm Church Library

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

**United Women in Faith**  
**January Gathering**



United  
Women  
in Faith

**Tuesday, January 13th at 2:00pm**  
**Music Room by Church Office**  
**(note location change!)**

Join us as we dig deeper into our study of "SOUL CARE."

All women are invited to connect with us and learn about projects we support, and how you can be a powerful witness for God.

Please contact Sharon Dougherty at 612-280-2103 or Sandy Feldhake at 952-484-7868 for questions.

### Holiday Event with SCA

We had so much fun partnering with SCA for their annual holiday event featuring cookie decorating, a basket raffle, and of course—Santa!

Thank you to our friends at SCA, all of our Indivisible friends, and our Holy Trinity family. It was a great evening celebrating with our community!



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

When we were going through the process of becoming a Reconciling Congregation, one of our “learning sessions” involved inviting people from nearby reconciling churches to give us the reasons that they are proud to be part of the reconciling movement. We had people from Minnehaha UMC and from Eden Prairie UMC. A major question that Holy Trinity members asked was, “Why should we become Reconciling? We are already a friendly and welcoming church.” Their answer was that it “just feels different” from being friendly and welcoming. Being a Reconciling Congregation means that we are “loud and proud,” that we seek ways to make sure that we are loving and welcome to ALL. Our Reconciling statement is very clear what ALL means: *We welcome and affirm people of every gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation, who are also of every age, race, ethnicity, physical and mental ability, level of education, and family structure, and of every economic, immigration, marital, and social status, and so much more.*

In the nearly three years that we have been a Reconciling Congregation, I’ve had many moments when I understand what the people from Minnehaha and Eden Prairie were saying. It does feel different. The first time I felt it was when the Flames from Centennial UMC performed. To be welcoming to all without reservations is truly what all churches should be. Even though we have always been friendly and welcoming, people in marginalized communities wouldn’t necessarily know that, which is why being a Reconciling Congregation is so important to me.

December saw this out in full bloom. Our choir cantata followed by our third annual One Table Meal turned into an amazing Sunday experience. Food and stories from around the globe were shared. I know that I missed a few delicious dishes, but it was an incredible morning. Two days later the Fellowship Hall was buzzing with families from here and from far and wide. We partnered with SCA for an afternoon of cookie decorating, a basket raffle, and an appearance from Santa, who was absolutely amazing with the kids. We served hot dogs, chips, drinks, and desserts. We also had the Hope Food Pantry open. The energy/excitement of people from

*(continued above...)*

many, many cultures was palpable. I have never felt so proud to be part of such love and giving.

As we move into January, we move into our first quarter of 2026, with the theme of “Love Your Neighbor.” We will be focusing on Racism, Native Americans, and Poverty. Starting in January we will be changing our “Mission of the Month” to a “Mission of the Quarter” emphasis that will pair with our Reconciling Ministries’ theme of the quarter. The Mission Theme for January will be “Food Insecurity.” We will be supporting the Cap Agency, ROCK, and the Hope Pantry with our offerings. You are still invited to donate monthly. You can indicate where you’d like your money to go, or we will divide any “unmarked” money evenly among the three food agencies. You are also invited to bring food in. All the food items that are turned in will go to the Hope Café and Pantry. We have been very busy with both and are always in need of food and supplies. Generally, there is a constant need for baking supplies (especially oil), milk, and eggs. We also need toilet paper and paper towels, as well as any other household items (like can openers).

I have told everyone far and wide that I have been involved in many ministries during my life, but the Hope Café and Pantry has been the most positive and spiritual one of all. It’s not about giving out food; it’s about creating relationships with the people who come in. With all of the vitriol and hate that seem to be feeding this nation, it is so amazing to experience love and acceptance. Feel free to come in anytime to help out. People in the area are learning about the beauty of our church and our desire to feed the hungry and welcome the stranger. As Jesus said 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.” Remember, Inclusion starts with I.





# January 2026

Holy Trinity UMC

(952) 447-2990

office@htumc.org

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
				<b>1</b>  <b>Church Office Closed</b> 6pm Veterans AA at the parsonage	<b>2</b> <b>Church Office Closed</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> 9:30am Worship/ Live-Stream	<b>5</b> 2-6pm Hope Café & Pantry 7pm Al-Anon in fellowship hall	<b>6</b>  <b>1-2:30pm Lakefront Bible Study</b> 2-6pm Hope Café & Pantry 7pm CoDA at the parsonage	<b>7</b> 4pm Bells Rehearsal 7pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>8</b> 6pm Veterans AA at the parsonage	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 11am-2pm Al-Anon Holiday Party
<b>11</b> 9:30am Worship/ Live-Stream  <b>4-5:30pm 8th/9th Confirmation</b> <b>5:30-7pm Sunday Funday (6th-12th)</b>	<b>12</b> 2-6pm Hope Café & Pantry <b>6:30pm Core Team Meeting</b> 7pm Al-Anon in fellowship hall	<b>13</b>  United Women in Faith <b>2:00pm UWFaith</b> 2-6pm Hope Café & Pantry 7pm CoDA at the parsonage	<b>14</b> 4pm Bells Rehearsal 7pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>15</b> 6pm Veterans AA at the parsonage	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> 9:30am Worship/ Live-Stream	<b>19</b> 2-6pm Hope Café & Pantry 7pm Al-Anon in fellowship hall	<b>20</b>  <b>1-2:30pm Lakefront Bible Study</b> 2-6pm Hope Café & Pantry 7pm CoDA at the parsonage	<b>21</b> 4pm Bells Rehearsal 7pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>22</b> 6pm Veterans AA at the parsonage	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> 9:30am Worship/ Live-Stream	<b>26</b> 2-6pm Hope Café & Pantry 7pm Al-Anon in fellowship hall	<b>27</b>  <b>2:00pm Trinity Readers</b> 2-6pm Hope Café & Pantry 7pm CoDA at the parsonage	<b>28</b> 4pm Bells Rehearsal 7pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>29</b> 6pm Veterans AA at the parsonage	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>

## 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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