



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!"

March, 2026



The Way of Lent

Each year, Lent invites us to walk a different path – a more thoughtful and intentional path. We begin with ashes and the reminder that our time here is finite. Then, we move steadily toward death and renewal – the cross and the resurrection. What needs to die within each of us – whether a bad habit, resentment, clinging to trauma, or something else – is individual to each of us. Likewise, the renewal we long for, and to which we are called, is also individual. What we share is our belief that when we walk with God we are able to discover and remain on the path of spiritual growth.

This Lent we are watching *The Way*, a film directed by Emilio Estevez, starring his father, Martin Sheen. The story follows Tom, a father who travels to France after the sudden death of his son. Instead of returning home immediately, Tom decides to walk the Camino de Santiago, the ancient pilgrimage route across northern Spain that his son had begun.

Tom doesn't set out looking for spiritual awakening. He starts walking out of grief. But along the way, something shifts. Strangers become companions. Burdens are shared. Stories are told. And slowly, step by step, his heart begins to open.

Lent is very much like that.

We may have entered this season carrying grief – grief for relationships that are broken, grief for injustice in our world, grief for losses spoken and unspoken. We may carry disappointment, doubt, anxiety, or fatigue. We may not have entered this Lenten season feeling especially spiritual. But, like Tom, we just start walking.

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Pastor Leigh continued and Church Announcements...

In the Gospels, Jesus says, "Follow me." Not "follow me when you understand everything" or "follow me when it's clear where you are going." Just "follow me." The earliest Christians were known not for a creed alone; they were known as followers of "the Way." Faith was a journey before it was a destination.

In the film *The Way*, transformation happens through the walking itself. The blistered feet. The shared meals. The uncomfortable conversations. The daily decision to take one more step. That is Lent – transformation through the journey. It is choosing prayer even when we feel distracted. It is practicing generosity in a culture that speaks of scarcity. It is telling the truth about our lives before God. It is walking alongside one another instead of alone.

Lent is not meant to be traveled alone. In the film, Tom resists companionship at first. He wants to grieve privately. But healing comes in community. The church offers us that same gift – a community of fellow pilgrims. None of us walks perfectly. All of us walk together.

As we continue this Lenten season, I invite you to consider:

- What are you carrying that needs to be laid down?
- Who has God sent to walk beside you?
- What small, faithful step are you called to take this week?

Easter will come. Resurrection always does. But for now, we walk the Way of the cross, trusting that Christ walks it with us.

Sunday, March 8, 2026



Spring Forward

Set Clocks Ahead One Hour

Lenten Soup Suppers and Movie Study



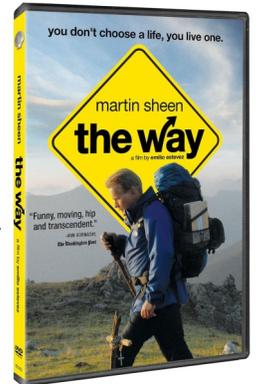
Please join us this Lent for a simple soup supper followed by a movie study on *The Way*.

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.



Lenten Soup Supper

Thank you to those who are making soup and hosting soup suppers this Lent! Soup Suppers begin at 5:15pm on the following Wednesdays...

- February 18 – black bean soup by Anderson Family - hosted by Holy Trinity Ringers
- February 25 - chicken vegetable rice soup by Jim and Lori- hosted by Trustees
- March 4 - soup by Don Oram - hosted by I-Team
- March 11 - vegetable beef soup by Deanna Hawkins - hosted by Choir
- March 18 - creamy Tuscan chicken soup by Dan and Ardys Sabin - hosted by Core Team
- March 25 - sopa carne y arroz/beef and rice soup by Nancy and Orlin - hosted by United Woman in Faith



**Reminder to parents with kids
in preschool—3rd grade**

Kids' Church is offered the first and third Sundays of every month (after Kids' Time in worship) down-stairs in the fellowship Hall. Nursery care is offered every Sunday.

Upcoming Dates: March 1, March 15 and April 19 (there will be no Kids' Church on Easter Sunday)



**Minnesota Reconciling
Congregation
Spring Gathering
Saturday, April 18 from
11:30am - 2:30pm
Holy Trinity
United Methodist Church**

This will include a gathering time, a time of sharing food, and a panel discussion that will include ideas of how to welcome LGBTQIA+ clergy members into your church setting. More information will be available as we get closer to the date, but mark your calendars now!



**HOLY WEEK
WORSHIP
SCHEDULE**



Sunday, March 29 - Palm Sunday
Palm Parade & Worship @ 9:30am

Thursday, April 2 - Maundy Thursday
Worship @ 7:00pm with Communion

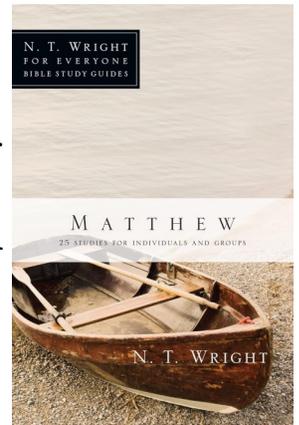
Friday, April 3 - Good Friday
Worship @ 7:00pm

Sunday, April 5 - Easter Sunday
Worship @ 9:30am with Communion
Easter Egg Hunt after Worship

**Lakefront Bible Study
March 3 & 17
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.



United
Women
in Faith

**United Women in Faith
March Gathering**

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

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 Sandy Feldhake at 952-484-7868 for questions.

**Trinity Readers
Tuesday, March 31
2:00pm Church Library**



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

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) | |

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE 2028 COSTA RICA MISSION TRIP



Most of you likely know that Holy Trinity leads a mission trip to Costa Rica every other year. Even though our team just returned from our most recent trip, it's already time to start thinking about our next trip back to Costa Rica. All able bodied adults are welcome to join us as well as any High School kids as long as they are accompanied by a parent or guardian. If you are curious about the type of work that we do on these trips, we encourage you to review our presentation from our most recent trip. You can find it here: <https://tinyurl.com/CRMission2025>

The tentative dates for our next trip are Jan 2-8, 2028. In the meantime, team members can participate in fundraisers over the next 2 years to help offset the trip expenses (room & board, flights, ground transportation, tips, construction materials and donated food). The total cost is expected to be around \$2000 per person so if you are interested in going but don't want to spend a lot of your own money, let us know and we will reach out to you about any upcoming fundraisers. Any money you raise will be individually tracked and you can use it in 2028 or bank it for a future trip. If you raise money and ultimately decide you will never go, you can allocate your funds to specific individuals or split it among all of the team members who are going on our next trip.

Our biggest and most profitable fundraisers revolve around Lakefront Music Fest which is on July 11th and 12th this year. We park cars in the church parking lot and surrounding grounds and we also volunteer to help with various jobs during LMF in exchange for a donation from the PL Rotary club. Sign-ups to help with these 2 events will be posted soon. In the meantime, if you are thinking about going on the trip, please reach out to Maia (MaiaShort87@gmail.com) or Vic Noer (Victor.m.noer@gmail.com) to let us know.



Inclusion Starts with I by Carol Ottoson...

March 5th will mark our third year of officially being a Reconciling Congregation. We will celebrate our third anniversary during and after the March 8th church service. I hope you will join us! I'd like to spend a little time this month answering two questions, "What does it mean to be a Reconciling Congregation?" and "How has this been reflected in the ministry of Holy Trinity United Methodist Church?"

The answer to the first question starts with the history of the Reconciling Ministries Network (RMN). It officially started in 1984 as an organization that welcomed LGBTQ+ members into the United Methodist Church. This was to offset the harm that was caused to the queer community that started in 1972 when the language that "homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching" was added to the *Book of Discipline*. As years went on, more restrictions were added to the *Book of Discipline* that further discriminated against the LGBTQ+ community. RMN has firmly supported the LGBTQ+ community throughout the years fighting hard to get the church to welcome queer clergy, gay marriage, and full rights to all members of the LGBTQ+ community. This was finally achieved in 2024.

While the Reconciling Ministries Network continues to work toward making sure that all United Methodist Churches are welcoming to the gay community, its reach has actually extended to all marginalized communities. Our Reconciling Ministries statement is pretty clear when we state, "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." Reconciling churches open their doors to all loudly and proudly.

I am beyond pleased with how Holy Trinity UMC opens our doors to all loudly and proudly. Many changes have resulted in our church in the last three years. We have a group of people, the I Team, whose primary role is to both educate and to create radical hospitality to all.

(continued above...)

We align with the original mission of welcoming the gay community with Pride events, such as Pride Bingo, with monetary offerings to the Reconciling Ministries Network and other organizations that support the LGBTQ+ community, and with speakers such as Ellie Krug. This year we are hosting the Spring Gathering of the Minnesota Reconciling Ministries Network on April 18th.

We also make sure that we try to feature all communities who are marginalized. Our goal is to make sure we feature all communities through our quarterly emphases:

- Jan-March *Love Your Neighbor* (Racism/Black Lives Matter, Native American, Poverty)
- April-June. *Golden Rule* (Domestic Violence, Bullying, Gender, Pride)
- July-September. *Let's Think Differently* (Differently-abled, memory loss, neurodiversity)
- October-December. *A Place at the Table* (Immigrants/Refugees, One Table)

We have now aligned our mission emphases to match our quarterly emphases. We will continue to bring in speakers and host events that will raise up all. We will continue to reach out to the community in any way that we can. Our Hope Café and Pantry have been literally saving lives, and we will continue to make sure that we can live out Jesus' commandment that we "love our neighbors as ourselves." Remember, Inclusion starts with I.

3 Year Anniversary March 5!



Holy Trinity will celebrate its 3 year anniversary of becoming a reconciling congregation on **Sunday, March 8.** Join us for worship at 9:30am and stay for cupcakes after the service!



March 2026

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
1 9:30am Worship/ Live-Stream 10:30am I-Team Meeting	2 2-6pm Hope Café & Pantry 7pm Al-Anon in fellowship hall	3  Bible Study Join us! 1-2:30pm Lakefront Bible Study 2-6pm Hope Café & Pantry 7pm CoDA at the parsonage	4  Soup Supper  4pm Bells Rehearsal 5:15pm Soup Supper 6:00pm Movie Study 7pm Choir Rehearsal	5 6pm Veterans AA at the parsonage	6	7
8 Daylight Saving Time 9:30am Worship/ Live-Stream  3 Year Anniversary 11:30am-1:30pm Confirmation Class	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  Soup Supper  4pm Bells Rehearsal 5:15pm Soup Supper 6:00pm Movie Study 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  Bible Study Join us! 1-2:30pm Lakefront Bible Study 2-6pm Hope Café & Pantry 7pm CoDA at the parsoange	18  Soup Supper  4pm Bells Rehearsal 5:15pm Soup Supper 6:00pm Movie Study 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 2-6pm 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	27	28
29 9:30am Worship/ Live-Stream 	30 2-6pm Hope Café & Pantry 7pm Al-Anon in fellowship hall	31  BOOK CLUB 2:00pm Trinity Readers 2-6pm Hope Café & Pantry 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

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

Church website: www.htumc.org



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