



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!”*

April, 2026



Walking Together Through Holy Week and Easter

In these past weeks we have been on an intentional Lenten journey using the film *The Way* as our guide as we walk step by step toward hope. Both in the film and in life we have discovered that strength and purpose in our life journeys are found not by walking alone, but by walking with others. We have come to understand that transformation is not something that is instant or magical, but the change in us that comes with discernment and growth along the way. The journey is the outcome – the source of transformation. We do “togetherness” well at Holy Trinity. We are a friendly, open and caring community. We cherish our relationships within the church. We cherish our relationship with God.

The relationship between need and community is a close one. Jesus knew this. He encouraged his followers to rely on the good will of others, even as they shared their good news of great hope with others. Shared need and hospitality is the environment in which the Christian movement flourished, and it is the environment in which our Holy Trinity community has flourished.

Next week is our most sacred week in the Christian year. We enter this Holy Week in the midst of a world that seems to be in constant upheaval – both foreign and frightening. I imagine that at times we all would love to turn around and run back to the way things were not all that long ago, when everything seemed “normal” and we had no idea what we took for granted. Life in these past months has been challenging and complicated.

And yet wonderful blessings have risen from the ashes of the chaos. It has not been difficult to see where we, as a church community and followers of Christ, have transformed. Our church is full of life. We have partnered with our neighbors

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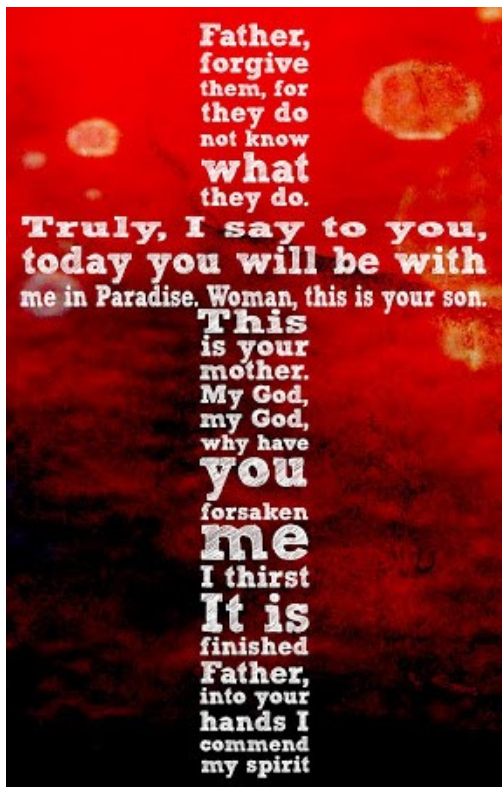
Pastor Leigh continued and Church Announcements...

and welcomed new friends. We are more connected to one another and more connected to our community than ever.

After this year of wilderness and this season of Lent we need Renewal – we need Easter. We know the promise; we know it is coming. But we are not there – yet. If transformation is found in the journey itself, the journey to Easter passes straight through the events of Holy Week. Our practice is to walk with Jesus to the cross during the final days of his life on earth, together as a community – beginning with his entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, continuing through his Last Supper with the disciples on Maundy Thursday, commemorating his death on the cross on Good Friday – and then sharing in a joyous celebration of his Resurrection on Easter Sunday.

I encourage each of you to continue your intentional Lenten journey and attend each of the Holy Week services. If we are searching for meaning in the midst of these times, it is in Christ and in each other that we will find it. This is the year. Together let's remember who we are. And whose we are.

Pastor Leigh



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

Holy Trinity will host an Easter Egg Hunt after our 9:30am worship service on **Easter Sunday, April 5** for elementary aged kids and younger. Easter treats and drinks will be available for all.



THE EASTER OFFERING

The Easter offering this year will be divided between Holy Trinity Ministries and the Minnesota Annual Conference Love Offering. Each year, churches in the Minnesota Conference take a Love Offering for missions in conjunction with the Annual Conference Session. This year's theme is "Created to Serve Joyfully."

This year the Love Offering will be used to support:

- > 30% to Midwest Mission
- > 20% to Love Boldly Mental Health Ministries Grant for Minnesota Conference Churches
- > 20% to the Endowment for Ministerial Education
- > 20% to Minnesota Conference's Emergency Response Fund
- > 10% to Volunteers in Mission (VIM) Scholarships

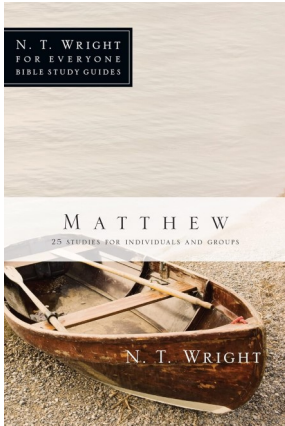
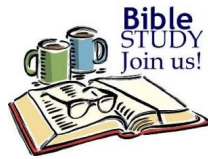
Church Announcements...

Lakefront Bible Study

April 7 & 21

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 April Gathering

Tuesday, April 14 at 2:00pm
Music Room by Church Office

Help us work on a service project at this month's gathering!

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

First timers and others are always welcome!

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

Confirmation Sunday, April 26

Holy Trinity will be confirming 4 young people on April 26 during the 9:30am service.

Congratulations to...

Cara Anderson
Neymar Canales Lagos
Reagan Erlandson
Emily Posthumus



Trinity Readers

Tuesday, April 28

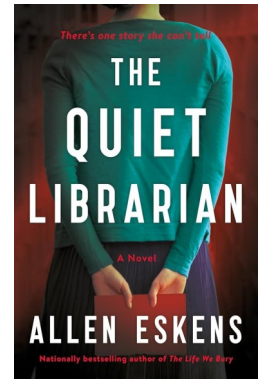
2:00pm Church Library



If you enjoy reading and discussing books, join us!

**The book for April: *The Quiet Librarian*
by Allen Eskens**

The novel is a thriller about a quiet Minnesota librarian, Hana Babic, whose past as a Bosnian warrior named Nura Divjak resurfaces after her best friend is murdered, forcing her to confront her violent history to protect her friend's grandson and find the killer. The novel blends a modern-day mystery with flashbacks to the Bosnian War, exploring themes of war, survival, vengeance, and the secrets people keep.



Contact Sandy Feldhake if you have any questions (sfeldha1@msn.com).

Spring into Easter

by Sara Fox

Spring into Easter!

It's a wonderful time of year
To celebrate Jesus' new life
As buds and flowers appear.

Jesus died on the cross
To show the world God's love.
On the third day he rose again
With the power of God above.

Spring into Easter!
It's a wonderful time of year
As church bells ring on Easter morn
For everyone to hear.

So with delicious treats
And Easter eggs galore,
Let's celebrate Jesus' new life
For now and ever more!

Church Announcements...



Minnesota Reconciling Congregations' Spring Gathering Saturday, April 18 from 11:30am - 2:30pm Holy Trinity UMC

Welcome spring by attending the Minnesota Reconciling Congregations' Spring Gathering!

The event starts with a gathering time and potluck lunch in the lower level Fellowship Hall followed by a program in the upper level Sanctuary. The program will be live-streamed and available on the MN Reconciling Congregations website.

This year will feature a panel discussion that will cover the theme of "Welcoming the Whole Person: The Journey Toward LGBTQIA+ Clergy Leadership."

Hear from clergy, laity, and a conference superintendent about how our churches can go beyond our vote and on to welcoming the whole person leading our congregations.

We hope you can join us! Bring a dish to pass and plan for a great day of conversation and contemplation. You are also invited to bring food for Holy Trinity's Hope Cafe and Pantry. The food pantry serves up to sixty families a week.

VBS 2026 SAVE THE DATE! August 9-12



Dates: 08/09/26 - 08/12/26 (Sun-Wed)

Location: Glendale UMC

Time: 5:30 - 7:30PM

Ages: pre-k through 5th grade + teen helpers

Rotation: music, story time, crafts, science, recreation.

We are looking for volunteers for science, recreation, crafts, music, and meals.

Please contact Heather Zehnder to register your child(ren) or to volunteer. hczehnder@yahoo.com



Youth in grades 7-12 and adult drivers are invited to be part of STORM 2026, an overnight camp hosted at **The Grove UMC in Woodbury, MN.**

We do two things at STORM Camp: Work and Worship. During our time together, we'll gather for morning devotions and evening chapel, and spend the days serving through yardwork, painting, building, cleaning, and growing in relationships with those we're serving and those we're serving alongside.

Groups arrive at The Grove on **Sunday, July 12 at 4pm** and depart on **Thursday, July 16 at 10am.**

Cost: Pricing is \$175/person; adult drivers are free.

Register Here: <https://stormcamp.org/registration/>



**Wednesdays
April 8 & 22
3:00pm**

A group from Holy Trinity is meeting at Culver's in Prior Lake (by Kwik Trip) every other Wednesday at 3:00pm for coffee and/or ice cream!

All are welcome!



April-June 2026 Mission Focus

The missions we are focusing on for the second quarter coordinate with the I-Team focus of *The Golden Rule: Domestic Violence, Bullying, Gender, and Pride*. All donations collected throughout the months of April-June will be divided equally among the following three missions.



Southern Valley Alliance is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing victims of domestic violence and their families with support, referrals, protection and advocacy.

They are a prevention and solutions-focused organization partnering with law enforcement, county legal systems, social services and healthcare providers to make the communities of Scott and Carver counties a better, safer place to live. They support and empower victims, survivors and their families, and create awareness to **End Domestic Violence**.



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.

They serve youth ages 12-25 and their families by providing individual, relationship, and family therapy. They specialize in assisting youth with gender identity and sexual orientation exploration, in addition to treating other mental health concerns such as anxiety, depression, and pervasive trauma. They are the only non-profit organization in Minnesota that offers financially accessible, specialized mental health care to this population.

Beyond their therapy work, RECLAIM engages in community events and offers training and consultation services to help their partners improve their ability to work with queer and trans folks.



Minnesota Reconciling Congregations

Mission:

Reconciling Ministries Network equips and mobilizes United Methodists of all sexual orientations and gender identities to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves.

Vision:

Reconciling Ministries Network envisions a renewed and vibrant Wesleyan movement that is biblically and theologically centered. As committed disciples of Jesus Christ, the RMN strives to transform the world by living out the Gospel's teachings of grace, love, justice and inclusion for all of God's children.

Our Role:

Minnesota Reconciling Congregations is RMN's Annual Conference Team for the Minnesota Annual Conference .

We will reach out in mission to members of the LGBTQ community to welcome them to our churches and to affirm them as children of God.



We always welcome donations for our Hope Café and Pantry. We are currently feeding approximately 60 families/week.

Here are some most needed items for Hope Pantry. Monetary donations are also appreciated!

- | | |
|--|---------------|
| 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) | |
| Cereal (Honey Nut Cheerios or the like) | |

Inclusion Starts with I by Carol Ottoson...

The past several months have been busy and exhausting on so many levels. Our decision to expand our Hope Café into the Hope Café and Pantry has been one of the best decisions that we've made as a church community. With the possibility of SNAP benefits being taken away and with food insecurity a reality for so many people in our area, it made sense for us to expand our ministry to our neighbors in need. Of course, as in any ministry, we have been the ones to reap the rewards of making new friends and reaching out even farther.

When "Operation Metro Surge" brought thousands of ICE agents into Minnesota, including Prior Lake and Shakopee, our ministry shifted even more. We have been providing food and supplies for up to sixty families a week. I have been extremely impressed by our local community of volunteers and of the generosity of people from everywhere. I have seen first-hand the very real fear that our immigrant community has been going through for the past several months. We have done what Christ has asked us to do – We have "loved our neighbor as ourselves." Christ did not tell us to vilify our neighbors or to assume that immigrants are "the worst of the worst." When we dehumanize others, we defy the teachings of Christ. When we do that in the name of Christianity, we push people away.

As we move into the second quarter of this year, we are reminded of the Golden Rule—*Do unto others as you would have them do unto you*. This emphasis includes domestic abuse, bullying, gender, and Pride. Our mission offerings will support Southern Valley Alliance, RECLAIM, and the Minnesota Reconciling Congregations (MRC). Each of these organizations provides needed services and help to a wide range of people.

To me the Golden Rule is synonymous with empathy. If I am "doing onto others as I would have them do onto me," I believe that I am using my "ability to understand and share the feelings of another," which is the dictionary definition of empathy. Imagine my surprise when I discovered that some Christians are now arguing that empathy is a sin! The proponents of this "theology" believe that empathy encourages us to accept people whom

(continued above...)

they believe are sinful due to who they are, including members of the LGBTQIA+ community, "illegal" immigrants (with an emphasis on "illegal" rather than undocumented), members of other religions, and even women, especially women who want autonomy over their own bodies. Deeming empathy as a sin, which is completely antithetical to the teaching of Jesus, gives permission to dehumanize, discriminate, and harm others. It is exactly the opposite of who a Christian should be. It is exactly the opposite of everything that Jesus taught us. One of my favorite passages from Harper Lee's novel *To Kill a Mockingbird* comes from Atticus Finch. "You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view—until you climb into his skin and walk around in it." That is the Golden Rule in a nutshell.

Finally, I hope that you can join us for the Minnesota Reconciling Congregation's Spring Gathering, which will be held at Holy Trinity on April 18, from 11:30 am – 2:30 pm. It will start with a gathering time and potluck lunch in the Fellowship Hall. The program, which will be held in the Sanctuary starting at 1:00, will be a panel discussion from pastors, including Pastor Leigh, a conference superintendent, and SPRC members from various churches who will discuss *Welcoming the Whole Person: The Journey Toward LGBTQIA+ Clergy Leadership*. **Remember, Inclusion Starts with I.**





April 2026

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
			1 4pm Bells Rehearsal	2  7pm Maundy Thurs. Worship 6pm Veterans AA at the parsonage	3  7pm Good Friday Worship	4
5 9:30am Worship/ Live-Stream HAPPY EASTER 	6  EASTER MONDAY Church Closed 2-6pm Hope Café & Pantry 7pm Al-Anon	7  Bible Study Join us! 1-2:30pm Lakefront Bible Study 2-6pm Hope Café & Pantry 7pm CoDA at the parsonage	8 3pm Coffee & Ice Cream at Culver's 4pm Bells Rehearsal	9 6pm Veterans AA at the parsonage	10	11
12 9:30am Worship/ Live-Stream 4-6pm Confirmation Class	13 2-6pm Hope Café & Pantry 7pm Al-Anon in fellowship hall	14  United Women in Faith 2:00pm UWFaith 2-6pm Hope Café & Pantry 7pm CoDA at the parsoange	15 4pm Bells Rehearsal 7pm Choir Rehearsal	16 6pm Veterans AA at the parsonage	17	18  MN Spring Gathering 11:30-2:30
19 9:30am Worship/ Live-Stream	20 2-6pm Hope Café & Pantry 6:30pm Core Team Meeting 7pm Al-Anon in fellowship hall	21 10am-1pm Quilters  Bible Study Join us! 1-2:30pm Lakefront Bible Study 2-6pm Hope Café & Pantry 7pm CoDA at the parsonage	22 3pm Coffee & Ice Cream at Culver's 4pm Bells Rehearsal 7pm Choir Rehearsal	23 6pm Veterans AA at the parsonage	24	25
26 9:30am Worship/ Live-Stream  Confirmation	27 2-6pm Hope Café & Pantry 7pm Al-Anon in fellowship hall	28  BOOK CLUB 2:00pm Trinity Readers 2-6pm Hope Café & Pantry 7pm CoDA at the parsonage	29	30		

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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